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PEOPLE 'INCENSED' BY CLOSURE OF THE COUNCIL CASH OFFICES – CLAIMS VALE COUNCILLOR

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale Council cabinet's decision to close its cash offices in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth has been greeted with dismay.

On Tuesday, November 3, Jane Hutt AM and Coun Gwyn John delivered a petition of more than 1,300 names to the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, in the hope that it would sway the cabinet into keeping the offices open.

Jane Hutt said: "These offices provide vital roles as local access points for council information, payment services and provision of recycling bags. The fact that more than 1,300 signatures were collected in just three weeks shows the strength of feeling among local residents on this issue."

Despite objections, cabinet members backed the closure of the offices in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth.

Vale councillor Gwyn John said: "I have called this decision in to scrutiny for further discussion.

"I don't think the council cabinet realise the impact for people in Cowbridge and Llantwit. At the cash offices, people pay their council tax, in fact any bill to do with the Vale Council. I pay my leisure centre bill at the Llantwit office and the staff are brilliant.

"A lot of people go to these offices for information about their accounts or for general information."

Coun John said that using the local Post Office or paying by phone were not necessarily ideal solutions.

"People would have to queue a lot more. I'm not knocking the Post Office, who have to provide many other services, but another use of the Post Office means people waiting longer.

"Dealing with someone over the phone can be a long-winded process when you're used to popping in to a cash office.

"We gathered more than 1,300 signatures and I understand 400 were from people in Cowbridge, and 957 were from Llantwit.

"In Cowbridge, the office is particularly important because it gives local tourism information.

"People in Llantwit are incensed. If we had had time to go door to door to collect signatures, we would have got many more."

Coun John said for many elderly or vulnerable people it was a disruption to their routine which they could do without.

"There are other areas the council could look at if they want to save money.

"Why don't the council at least consider something like opening the offices three days in Llantwit and two days in Cowbridge, or mornings in Llantwit and afternoons in Cowbridge?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

ABOVE:
Vale AM Jane Hutt and Coun Gwyn John presented a petition to the Vale Council in a bid to keep council cash offices open in Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Penarth.

Chamber of trade chief hails success of food fest

THE chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, has praised this year's food festival – but he has tempered that praise with disappointment that some shops did not open on the festival Sunday.

Looking back on the event, he told The GEM: "On behalf of the chamber of trade, I would like to thank John Davies, Polly Wilson and their team for all their hard work in organising what was once again a fantastic food and drink festival.

"The atmosphere in Cowbridge on the Saturday was lovely, and it was nice to see most traders making an effort to promote the festival in one way or another".

He went on: "However, on the Sunday there were a number of comments from visitors saying they were disappointed that more shops were not open – and I feel that those who didn't open missed a good opportunity to, at the least, promote their business in the run-up to Christmas."

He said that the chamber of trade was now putting its weight behind Reindeer Day (November 29) the late-night shopping evening on December 3, and Sunday opening from Reindeer day through to Christmas.

Mr John added: "I would call on traders to get behind these events and show Cowbridge at its best."

RECENT CONFLICTS ALSO REMEMBERED

Communities across Vale pay tribute to those who made ultimate sacrifice

IN towns and villages across the Vale, thousands of people have made their way to the local Cenotaph, to honour those who have sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom.

Earlier this month, the British death toll in Afghanistan reach 200 – and it appears that conflict has sharpened people's understanding of why older generations look upon Remembrance Sunday as a sacred date in the nation's calendar.

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, commented: "We had a very good turn-out in the town, an excellent parade and a memorable service

"It was an opportunity to remember not only those from the first two world wars, but also service people from more recent conflicts, such as Afghanistan."

John Hobbs, chairman of the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion, said: "This year's turn-out was very good.

"I think it is partly as a result of the battles in Afghanistan. People now have a new understanding of what Remembrance Sunday is all about."

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Russell Downe, reported: "Remembrance Sunday in Llantwit Major was recognised by old and young alike.

"As the parade made its way through the town the military section of it was clapped by people standing at the side of the road – it was a very nice touch.

"Llantwit's close military ties means it has an understanding of the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces – and with recent conflicts and casualties more people are understanding the significance of the day."

For Ian Dixon's pictorial record of the day in Cowbridge please turn to page 14.

Veterans in Cowbridge, as in other Vale communities, were delighted to see young people such as these Brownies demonstrating their respect on Remembrance Sunday.

It's a Top Dyslexia Action award win for Ysgol Iolo's Ben

BEN HUNTER from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg has scooped one of the top awards for his achievements over the last 12 months.

The year-4 pupil receives lessons with the Dyslexia Institute in Cardiff and has made such good progress that he has won the 'Dyslexia Action Young Person's Award'.

This award is the biggest accolade in the field of dyslexia and he collects his award in a prestigious ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel in London this week.

The awards have been in place for the last eight years and this year's ceremony will be attended by the Countess of Wessex.

Previous award winners from Dyslexia Action include Jerry Hall, Ruby Wax and Bill Wyman, so Ben is sure to rub shoulders with the rich and famous!

Headteacher Dylan Evans stated: "This is a wonderful achievement and Ben deserves all the recognition for all his hard work and determination. Ben has worked closely with Chris Lacey from the Dyslexia Institute and she has provided Ben with strategies and skills that have developed his literacy and thinking skills.

"Ysgol Iolo Morganwg wish Ben all the very best and congratulate him on his positive attitude towards learning."

Ben Hunter – 'Young Person's Award'.

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'Keep these dogs on a lead!'– plea

I AM writing in response to the letter, 'warning over dogs' attack in Cosmeston,' published in last week's GEM.

I have also encountered a problem with two dogs who attacked my dog twice in the space of 20 minutes a few weeks ago.

Despite the problems they were causing, the owners of the dogs did nothing to control them, meaning I had to hold onto my dog to prevent her from bolting.

Twenty minutes after the first attack, I saw the dogs again and so put my dog on a lead and assumed, given the earlier incident, the owners of the dogs would do the same.

Unfortunately, they did not and their dogs attacked mine again.

The only time the owners acknowledged me was when I shouted at the dogs to get them away from mine – and still they did nothing.

Sadly, this type of problem behaviour is becoming a regular occurrence at Cosmeston and various other locations as some irresponsible dog owners fail to control their animals properly. There are many dogs who do not know even simple commands such as 'sit' and 'come'.

This lack of control is spoiling the walks of responsible dog owners and their pets. I fear it is only a matter of time before a dog is seriously injured in an attack which could end up with an owner being bitten trying to intervene.

I would, therefore, urge anyone with an unruly dog to either train it properly or keep the animal on a lead, so that other people do not have to worry about their own dog.

(Name and address supplied)

'Think of the environment' council urged

THE Vale Council was urged this week to put environmental protection at the heart of its decision making by adding a section on "Environmental Implications (to include climate change)" to council reports.

Gibbonsdown councillor said: "Currently all reports contain sections on resource implications (financial and employment), legal implications (to include human rights) and equal opportunities implications (to include Welsh language issues).

"By adding a section on the protection of the environment will force all our officers to think about what effect their new policy will have on our planet.

"It's about time local politicians got serious about climate change and the way that the council carries out its business has an effect, good or bad, on all our environments," he said.

"Protecting our environment should be at the heart of every council policy. The scientific consensus is now very clear – climate change is one of the biggest threats facing life on our planet.

"This one change would not cost a lot but would have a major effect on the way we implement council policy," Coun Curtis insisted.

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Origins of Halloween lie in celebration of *life not death*'

THE festival of Samhuinn, now known as Halloween, is an ancient Druid/Pagan festival, which was celebrated long before Christianity came into being.

It is a celebration of the lives of our ancestors. Young people dressed up and played tricks and housewives rushed to give them food and drink.

This is how 'trick or treat' began.

To quote from *The Elements of the Druid Tradition:*

"At the time of Samhuinn, we can open ourselves to the reality of other worlds, to the reality of the existence of those of our friends who have gone before us, and who are still alive and well, though not on this earth.

"Children brought up in this tradition will have a warm feeling towards this other reality, rather than being filled with a fear that has been provoked by the pernicious images of hell, developed by distorted forms of Christianity."

To read in the Daily Mail, on October 31, that the Vatican would like to direct the meaning of the feast towards *"wholesomeness and beauty rather than terror, fear and death,"* beggars belief when you examine the appalling history of Christianity.

In 1952 a Papal bull, *Ad exstirpanda*, was initiated by Pope Innocent IV, which authorised the use of torture in investigating heresy, bringing "terror, fear and death" to countless thousands of people during the inquisitions which lasted hundreds of years.

The Spanish Inquisition had the approval of Pope Sixtus IV, and we must not forget the Cathars of Languedoc, who were wiped out on the orders of the Vatican.

Diane Mitchell,
Barry

'My uncle Jack is never forgotten'

IN reply to the letter in The GEM by Olive Farmer of Barry, may I say that my mother's youngest brother, Jack (aged 19) was killed at Eritrea.

I never met him as I was not born until 1947; however, no Remembrance Day passes without him being in our thoughts.

My grandmother, who lived in Shropshire, got his medals and a card saying where his grave was and that she could visit the cemetery.

The likelihood of that was the same as me flying to the moon, as Eritrea was somewhere she could not even picture, never mind visit.

Can I also, for the last time, ask Ann Matthews to solve privately whatever argument she has with Russell Downe (at Llantwit Major Town Council), because we, the people who vote for them, are fed up to the back teeth with hearing about the constant bickering in The GEM.

EM Davies,
Boverton

'Vet is a thorn in the side'

MAURICE KIRK, the Flying Vet, has long been a thorn in the side of the establishment, and the sooner we stop wasting public funds on locking up people whose only crime is posing awkward questions, the better.

Suzon Forscey-Moore,
Cambridge (researcher in law)

VET'S HARD TIME

HEAR, HEAR! I too think that Flying Vet Maurice Kirk is being given an unwarrantedly hard time.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge

WRITE IN!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please send them to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Search for friend

I AM trying to contact Mrs Ellen Martin, of Llantwit Major; I have lost her address and telephone number and am desperate to get in contact with her.

Could you please print this appeal in your newspaper?

Mary Walker, Pontyclun

Limit fireworks to one night only

ISN'T it time we celebrated Guy Fawkes night on November 5, not bonfire week?

I love fireworks, but there was a time when this symbolic act meant something and those with animals knew when to shut their pets in.

Now, for about a week, bonfires are lit and with them fireworks. I applaud those who give time and effort to the community bonfire (much safer I am sure) but far worse for animals with louder bangs and brighter displays

If you do not see these advertised, they are run to the whim of the committee and may be any day.

Vikey Way,
Pickeston

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 19)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	03.24	12.9	15.57	13.2
13 Fri	04.33	13.2	17.01	13.6
14 Sat	05.31	13.7	17.48	14.0
15 Sun	06.22	14.1	18.41	14.2
16 Mon	07.05	14.3	19.24	14.4
17 Tues	07.48	14.6	20.06	14.3
18 Wed	08.27	14.4	20.48	14.2
19 Thur	09.04	14.2	21.27	13.9

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

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(Emergency number 999)
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FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.
Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.
Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.
To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Cowbridge in Bloom annual awards 2009

ABOVE:
The mayor, Coun Jon Harris, with Mr Ken Dauncey and warden Mrs Lynda Flanagan.

ABOVE: Mrs Barbara Jones of Cowbridge in Bloom and Mrs Thomas of Riverside Mews.

PRESENTATIONS of certificates were made at a recent reception in the mayor's parlour at the Town Hall to winners of residential house frontages, courtyards and special hanging baskets and boxes.

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, along with Cowbridge in Bloom co-ordinator Mrs Barbara Jones presented Mrs Thomas of Riverside Mews with her award, and also handed a commendation certificate to Long Meadow Court resident Mr Ken Dauncey and warden Mrs Lynda Flanagan.

Town's role in coffee concert

A GROUP of Cowbridge music enthusiasts are now in their eighth year organising concerts featuring new young talents.

Under the banner of the 'Cardiff Coffee Concerts' they take place at the Reardon Smith Theatre at the National Museum in Cardiff

The next concert will be given by Swansea-born Thomas Carroll, a leading young cellist, who makes a return to the coffee concerts and will play music by Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms on Sunday, November 15 at 11.30am.

A spokeswoman said: "The concerts are organised here in Cowbridge by a small group of volunteers in partnership with the National Museum Cardiff. This is a venture Cowbridge can be proud of!"

Tickets can be bought in advance from St David's Hall Box Office (029 2087 8440) The concert is free to all eight-to-22-year-olds in full time education, thanks to support from the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust

All tickets include a free sherry, coffee or juice in the special audience room at the Museum's Icons restaurant after the show.

30 BOXES OF FESTIVE CHEER ARE FILLED FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN

MEMBERS of Croes-y-Parc Church, Peterston-Super-Ely have filled 30 boxes with festive gifts for the charity Operation Christmas Child. .

It was launched in Wrexham 19 years ago, to bring a spark of Christmas into the lives of poor children of the world.

Cowbridge Compost team pick up national award

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE company has collected a national award for its work in recycling and in stopping household waste products ending up in landfill.

Cowbridge Compost, which operates from its base at Penllyn Estate Farm, is only in its third year, but it so impressed the judging panel that it beat national companies such as Biffa and Veolia in its category.

The company has been featured in The GEM recently, as an example of how the estate owner, John Homfray, believes that farms should be diversifying as much as possible – rather than relying solely on livestock or agriculture.

Cowbridge Compost takes green waste and kitchen waste from around the Vale – it recently signed a contract to handle all the Vale Council's material – and turns it into compost that is then used on farms around the Vale.

The company received its award from the Chartered Institute of Waste management (CIWM).

As a result, the estate manager, Mike Hallett, travelled to London to receive the accolade, the PEEL People's Cup for 2009, for "...providing excellent career, training and social opportunities for their staff."

Mike Hallett told The GEM: "We are thrilled to have won this award against competition from much bigger companies.

"It is a difficult award to win because a judge turns up unannounced, and interviews staff, examines your systems and looks at the company's training records."

He continued: "We are delighted to have been given such a prestigious award.

"It was only three years ago that we started taking green waste, and 12 months ago this extended to receiving the Vale Council's kitchen waste."

ABOVE:
Some members of the Cowbridge Compost team:
Back row (left to right): Damien Burnell, John Homfray, Mike Hallett and Phil Taylor.
Front row: Andrew Shackles, Jordan Gouvier, Paul Hallisey.

Breast Test Wales thanks Cowbridge

STAFF at Breast Test Wales have thanked Cowbridge for accommodating the mobile breast screening unit.

It was based at the Town Hall but is now moving out.

Dafydd Snelling, screening promotion officer commented: "We are very grateful to staff at the Town Hall for allowing us to situate our mobile unit within their car park. Without their continuing support, screening in the local community would not be possible.

"Breast Test Wales also wishes to thank all the women who attended their breast screening appointment and everyone in the community who has provided information about the programme."

All women who are concerned about a change in their breast health that is not normal for them should visit their family doctor.

For more information, contact your GP practice or telephone 029 2039 7222 to speak to Breast Test Wales.

Talk from a chef, and a lunch date

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

AT the annual meeting, president Joy Brooking introduced Shena Sarjeant, WI advisor, and the October Glamorgan Federation Newsletter was discussed.

Six members attended the council meeting recently held at The Barry Memorial Hall. Guest speaker was food writer, chef and broadcaster, Angela Gray, who spoke about her early life and career. An interesting account of a very enjoyable day was given by Jill Rosser.

The next venue for the Lunch Club is The Bear, Llanharry, on November 20.

Final transport and lunch details were given for the Christmas Extravaganza on November 23 at St David's Hall.

Reports followed from Toni Farrant (minutes), Pauline Charles (treasurer) and Jill Rosser (secretary).

In her president's address, Joy thanked the committee for their help and support throughout a busy year. Current committee members were prepared to continue and the officers remained the same.

Members were reminded an extra meeting will be on November 24 and this will be a floral demonstration.

The competition, five cakes (own choice) attracted large entries, judged by Shena and narrowly won by Rita Butt.

Tea hostesses were Yvonne David and Margaret Rees.

Diolch gan Bron Brawf Cymru

HOFFAI staff Bron Brawf Cymru ddiolch i Neauadd y Dref yn Y Bontfaen am adael iddynt roi'r uned symudol sgrinio'r fron yn eu maes parcio. Mae'r uned symudol wedi'i lleoli yn Neauadd y Dref ers Medi a bydd yn symud yn Tachwedd 2009.

Dywedodd Dafydd Snelling, Swyddog Hybu Sgrinio: "Rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i staff Neauadd y Dref am adael i ni leoli ein huned symudol o fewn eu maes parcio, heb eu cefnogaeth barhaus ni fyddai sgrinio yn y gymuned leol yn bosib.

"Fe hoffai Bron Brawf Cymru ddiolch i bob merch sy'n cadw'r apwyntiad i gael sgrinio'i bronnau, ac i bawb yn y Gymuned sydd wedi rhoi gwybodaeth am y Rhaglen."

Fe ddylai unrhyw ferch sy'n bryderus ynghylch newid anarferol yn iechyd ei bronnau fynd i weld ei Meddyg Teulu.

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â Phractis eich Meddyg Teulu neu ffoniwch 029 20397222 i ymgynghori â Bron Brawf Cymru.

BIG SCREEN

BIG SCREEN's next showing in Cowbridge – *Is Anybody there?* (Cert 12A) is on Thursday, November 26, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Set in an old folks home in an English seaside town in the 1980s, it deals with the relationship between a retired magician (Michael Caine) and a young boy obsessed with death. It also stars Anne-Marie Duff, David Morrissey and Leslie Phillips.

Tickets £3 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

Llangan pupils enjoy a very busy time with concerts, castles and making their own CD

THE last few weeks at Llangan Primary School have been a busy time for pupils and teachers alike.

The school celebrated Harvest with a concert for parents in which all classes prepared a song or poem, and a number of children performed solo items, a spokesperson reports.

The nursery class made a scarecrow, and the Eco club displayed the produce they had grown in their vegetable garden.

PINK DAY

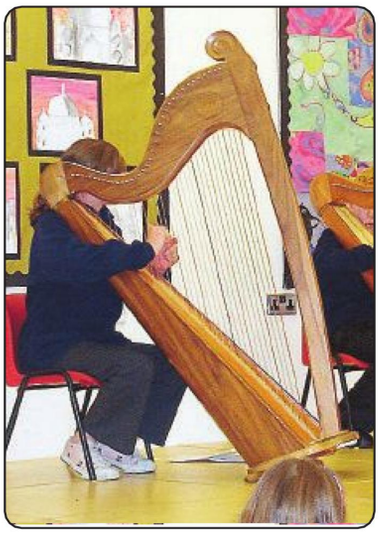
The children raised money by bringing cakes into school to sell in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Everyone dressed in pink – even the staff – and there some startling pink wigs!

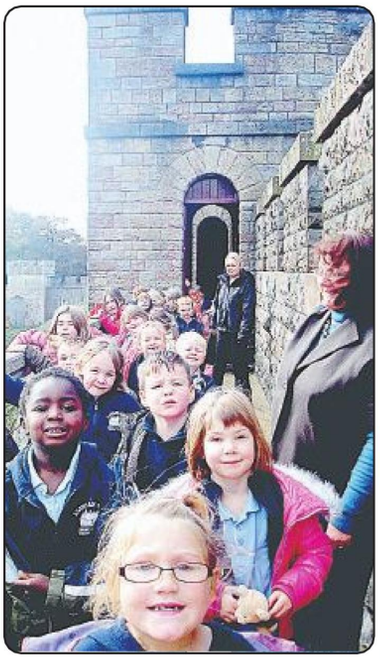
NSPCC

The children have also raised £780 for the NSPCC after a visit from Linda Killich, who works for the charity.

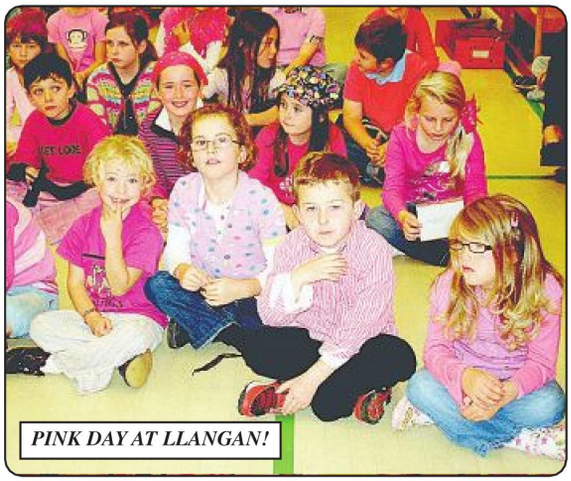
Finally, children in year-1 and year-2 visited Cardiff Castle and, as well as enjoying a tour of the grounds and the castle, attended a workshop where they made up their own

'WE GREW THESE OURSELVES!' say the Eco club.

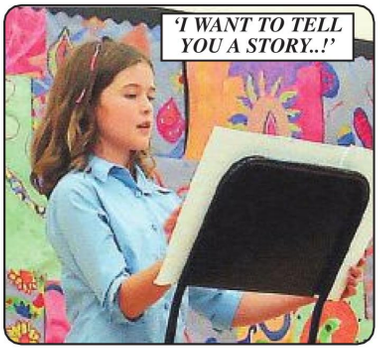




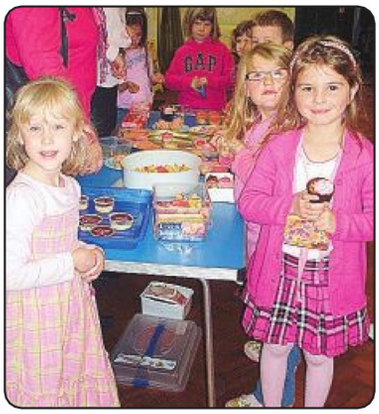
LOOKING AROUND CARDIFF CASTLE!



PINK DAY AT LLANGAN!



'I WANT TO TELL YOU A STORY..!'



IT'S 'MANY HAPPY RETURNS' TO THE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL – 150 YEARS OLD!

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

ON November 5 Llansannor and Llanharry Church in Wales School welcomed the Archbishop of Wales Dr Barry Morgan to celebrate the school's 150th birthday.

The headmaster Mr Paul Fisher, and school governors JPR Williams, Dr Scilla Williams and Mrs Eleanor Eddershaw accompanied the bishop and Canon Derek Belcher on a tour of the school involving all the pupils.

The trip round 'The Mountain School' culminated in a celebration tree planting ceremony in the school garden, and the cutting of a birthday cake.

On page 7, you can read more about the school's history, courtesy of local historian Mr David Francis.

Local writer publishes first sports book

ABOVE: Ian Golden pictured at his book launch with Kevin Ellis.

EX-COWBRIDGE School pupil Ian Golden (37) has had his first book published entitled *A Welsh Crusade – Building Rugby League in Wales 1990 – 2009,* which had its launch at the Scrum and Surf Sports Shop in the Bridgend Designer Outlet on Saturday, November 6.

Many eager enthusiasts and supporters were queuing to have their copies signed by Ian and also Kevin Ellis (former Welsh rugby international star).

Ian, whose parents live in Aberthin, gained a degree in journalism at the University of Glamorgan and is media manager for the Celtic Crusaders Rugby League Football Club, press officer for the Welsh national side and a former chairman of the Cardiff Demons RLFC.

He has written for and edited a number of Cardiff City and Wales football fanzines.

Ian also enjoys radio broadcasting for local community station GTFM, as well as supporting the England cricket team.

A Welsh Crusade by Ian Golden is on sale at Scrum and Surf at £13.95 and at www.amazon.co.uk at a price of £11.16.

CG

Trust talk on a Polar hero

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members met at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, on Wednesday, October 21 and enjoyed an interesting talk given by Dr Peter Jones on the 'Polar Hero from St Fagans'.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington, when the speaker, Maggie Mason, will talk about 'Kew Gardens: A Guide's View'.

Membership of the association is open to any interested person who is a paid-up member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland, or spouse/partner of a life member, or a National Trust staff member. New members are welcome.

For further information, contact 078 3333 6089.

Let Vale people speak! – Plaid councillor appeals to Assembly

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

LEFT: Nic Hodges with Bethan Jenkins AM and Val Lloyd AM at the National Assembly.

THE Vale Council has decided that only Vale councillors can speak at planning committee meetings – and Coun Nic Hodges is taking his fight against this to the Assembly.

Under the present system, local town and community councils cannot address a planning meeting to make any point about a proposed development. The same applies to the public.

Last week, Plaid Cymru's Coun Nic Hodges handed over a petition on third-party speaking rights at planning meetings to the AM's Bethan Jenkins and Val Lloyd.

Coun Hodges has stepped up the campaign after the Vale Council refused to change its policy.At present, 16 out of 22 county councils in Wales do allow these voices to be heard.

Coun Hodges told The GEM: "I received overwhelming support from the town and community council representatives at a recent Vale Council liaison meeting, but in spite of this the Tories who run the Vale will not give speaking rights at planning meeting to the public.

"I am delighted that councils in the Vale, such as St Athan and Llandough, signed the petition and was pleasantly surprised to see the name of St David's City Council in Pembrokeshire."

Coun Hodges pointed to the recent planning meeting that approved the St Athan Defence Training College (DTC) as an example.

Neither Llantwit Major Town Council, nor Llanmaes Community Council was allowed to send a representative, so Coun Gwyn John, a Vale councillor for the area, had to step in.

Coun Hodges pointed to St Athan Community Council, because their local Vale councillor could not speak on the matter on their behalf, because he had had to declare an interest.

The councillor concerned, Coun John Thomas, confirmed to The GEM that this was the case. However, he said that Coun John Clifford had agreed to raise issues on his behalf.

Coun Hodges said: "People keep raising objections saying 'what do we do if too many people want to speak?'

"It isn't a problem in neighbouring boroughs such as Bridgend. The chairman simply allocates a set time, and tells the various groups to nominate a speaker.This applies to people speaking in opposition or in favour. The developer can speak as well!"

He concluded: "I have spent the last few weeks collecting signatures from across the county, including an online Assembly Petition.

"I have now presented the petition to the AMs in the hope they can bring about change in the Vale. I hope that in their discussions later this month, the Petitions Committee will recognise there is a postcode lottery on the right to voice an opinion on planning in Wales."

Planning committee chairman, Coun Jeffrey James, responded: "I am disappointed that Coun Hodges fails to recognise the democratic decision of the Vale Council.

"There has been a debate at scrutiny committee, which voted against his proposal, a debate at the community liaison committee which voted against, and the cabinet has already made its decision.

"As he has discovered by his survey, each council in Wales does things differently because they each have a choice.

"It would seem Coun Hodges wants choice, but only his own."

Breastfriends' go on display in the library

Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams and the Mayoress, were among the visitors to the awareness-raising display.

BREAST Cancer Awareness Month was marked with a special event at Barry Library.

Organised by the local branch of Breastfriends (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group), an awareness-raising display attracted numerous visitors, including the Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams and the Mayoress, his wife, Joan.

He is helping to raise funds for the work of Breastfriends, which was set up as a meeting point for women and men with breast cancer.

The Barry group meets in the Philip John Room in the County Library on the third Friday of each month at 2pm.

Nearly 46,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year in the UK.

As the most commonly diagnosed disease, it accounts for nearly one in three of all cancers in women, and one in nine women in the UK will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime. Around 300 men are also diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

For further information, see www.breastfriendscandv.org.uk

REUNION

COWBRIDGE High School Old Girls Association will be holding its winter reunion tomorrow (Friday, November 13) in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge at 7pm.

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Autumn not a good time for male bees!

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

AUTUMN is definitely here...The clocks have gone back, leaves are changing colour and falling, and the temperatures are cooler, but still very acceptable.

As a beekeeper, the most significant autumnal indicator for me is the elimination of the drones from the hives.

There are no Virgin Queens requiring mating over the winter months and therefore males are not required.

This may seem a little severe, but looking back over the year, it is the worker bees (the females) which literally do all of the work. Drones (male bees) contribute nothing to the hive. They do not collect nectar or pollen, they have no sting, so cannot help in the defence of the hive, they do not even make wax.

So the ladies of the hive kill them off, these redundant males are not going to be allowed to live and consume the hard won stores that will be needed to see the hive through the winter months.

Queens are still laying eggs, but at a much lower rate.

Winter would normally see the end of egg laying, and consequently no brood.

However, due to the warmer winters of late, there are few months, if any, when brood is not present within the hive. No male-producing eggs will be laid until spring.

Any bees reared now will be the longest-lived. Little work is required and almost no foraging activity will be going on.

The main task of the winter bees is to preserve the life of the queen so that come spring, she (and they) can commence with the re-population of the hive and, of course, carry out their invaluable pollination service.

Although treatment for the elimination of the Varroa Mite has been carried out, enough of them survive on the winter cluster, and they too will take advantage of the spring upsurge to increase their numbers, along with the bees.

Honeybees are social insects and the transfer of mites from bee to bee is easily carried out. All hives have guard bees at their entrance, and if returning bees do not have the scent they get short-shrift, and are rejected.

Wasps and other aliens are dealt with in a similar manner. The exception to this rule is the drone (male bee).

He can gain access to any hive he chooses to visit with impunity.

So, if there are several beekeepers within a given area and hives are not receiving treatment for Varroa, visiting drones which will be carrying mites, will boost the population of your carefully tended hives very quickly.

Will there ever be a biological control available to combat the mite? Who knows!

I for one will just have to gird up my loins and hope to keep Fonmon Apiary a viable concern, along with the Apiary that is now being established at Dyffryn Gardens.

No more honey will come from the hives this year, but come the new season, and providing the bees survive the winter, hope springs eternal and maybe, just maybe both Fonmon and Dyffryn Gardens bee hives will provide a surplus of the liquid gold we all love.

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MOUNTAIN SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150TH BIRTHDAY – BUT MAY GO BACK FURTHER!

I ENJOYED reading the article about Llansannor and Llanharry Church in Wales School in The GEM recently.

The photograph accompanying it brought back vivid memories of wartime and post-war school life.

The photograph reproduced on this page shows the two teachers, Mrs Saunders (Head) and Mrs Dingle (infants) and about 30 of us pupils, all of whom I recognised with a bit of help.

The original caption below the photograph suggested it was taken in the 1950s. This is not correct, however, because a number of pupils, including myself, passed the scholarship and left the school in 1948. So I believe its date was either 1947 or 1948.

From my own researches, it appears that a couple of church-aided schools in Llanharry were the forerunners of the Mountain School.

First, there was a Dame School in the village in 1846-7 and later another school, held surprisingly in The Bear Inn in the 1860s, where the master was Edward Hopkins, an 80-year-old pedagogue!

The Dame School is mentioned in the infamous 'Treason of the Blue Books' Education Report (1847) and the commissioner was delighted that so many pupils were able to speak English, whereas 18 months previously nearly everyone spoke Welsh...

by local historian DAVID FRANCIS

Sadly, it was thought by many at the time that the Welsh people would make no progress economically or morally so long as they spoke Welsh!

In another part of the 1847 report, the Rector of Llanharry, the Rev John Powell, proposed a scheme for uniting the parishes of Llanharry, Llansannor and Ystradowen so that pupils could attend one central school.

This idea was realised in 1859 when the three parishes were presented with a plot of land by Alexander Young Spearman of Llansannor Court and Hereford.

A few years later, the Mountain School – a national school – was built on the site and the architect was David Vaughan of Bonvilston.

Vaughan was also responsible for building quite a number of schools, mansions and churches (Llanharry Church in 1867) as well as the well-known Bridgend Town Hall. His plans can still be consulted in the County Record Office.

There is no doubt that the school would not have been built at all but for the support of the local clergy and gentry as well as the National Society, of course, and was "to provide education for the labouring, manufacturing and other poor classes in accordance with the principles of the Established Church".

Not surprisingly, there was strong opposition at the time to the idea of a National School from the Nonconformists and this might explain the reason for the delay in the building of the school after 1859.

After 1870, school life was tough for both pupils and masters alike. The schoolroom was cheerless, cramped, ill-lit and without much heating. Pupils trudged uphill in all winds and weather and there was no food provided or caretakers to keep the school clean.

As regards the masters, one is shocked to discover that there were as many as nine in succession between 1874 when TJ Batchelor was appointed until the end of the century.

Moreover, two masters died of lung disease due to the damp conditions of the school house.

In 1881, owing to overcrowding, a new classroom was built for the infants and in 1894, there was an extension of the premises with the western end taking part of the playground.

Sitting around in damp clothes in winter in badly heated classrooms and learning monotonous lessons by rote can't have been much fun, but there were a few compensations to bring a little sunshine into the pupils' lives.

These included the annual Christmas party at Llansannor Court and regular visits to Llansannor House, where the Griffiths brothers fascinated the incredulous youngsters with 'Magic Lantern Shows'.

Finally, there was the annual visit to the St Mary Hill Fair on August 26, and in 1903, the school trip to Penarth with Mr DRC Davies was the first time that some pupils had seen the sea!

The school briefly closed in 1912 when the majority of pupils left with Mr Davies for the new Council School in Llanharry.

However, a few months later it re-opened as Llansannor and Llanharry Non Provided School and it was a miracle that the little academy on the hill survived. Even in my time there was an occasional threat of closure.

In the 1940s, he headteacher Mrs SJ Saunders provided a lengthy period of stability.

I hope that the present day pupils will successfully research the past 40 years or so – a period when the school has gone from strength to strength under two more long-serving headteachers!

Warm memories of school

I WRITE in response to your article of October 22, regarding the 150th anniversary of Mountain School, where both my sister, Rachel, and I were pupils between 1941-1951.

I have estimated that the picture of the school group was taken in 1947. During the war years, the school remained open throughout and I recall that the large windows were taped up during this time to reduce any damage caused by bomb blast.

I also recall the time that a number of German prisoners of war escaped from prison in Bridgend and we children were escorted to and from school by the Home Guard.

On the occasion of a VE day (Victory in Europe), the local commanding officer of a Canadian Signals Squadron, based at Windmill Farm, brought in to school a huge celebration cake, which was eagerly devoured by the children and teachers alike.

During the cold days of winter, those pupils who walked some considerable distance to school, were allowed to 'warm up" before the huge coal fire in the classroom.

On a daily basis, during this period, our teacher would administer a dose of cod liver oil and malt and although I tried very hard to make myself as small as possible, I never ever got away without having to take my medicine.

Although activities during the war failed to close the school, the heavy snow storms of the winter of 1947 did in that we were unable to reach school for three weeks because of the huge snow drifts.

I remember, with some affection, both my teachers and certainly the majority of the pupils depicted in the photograph which includes my sister and me.

Ron Plant, Yaxley, Peterborough

Assurances sought on fire station

VALE Conservative candidate Alun Cairns is to seek assurances from fire chiefs about their plans to change Cowbridge Fire Station from one that is crewed by full time officers to one crewed by part timers.

Mr Cairns said that he had seen The GEM story about the station being due to become a retained station within two years, once the retained firefighters that have been recruited have been fully trained.

"I have nothing but praise for the work done by retained firefighters throughout Wales," he said. "They are trained to the same high standards as the full time professionals, but I want to be reassured that the people of Cowbridge can expect the same high level of fire cover in future that they have enjoyed until now."

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Let the (Guiding) celebrations begin!

MORE than 170 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, senior section, Trefoil Guild and adult volunteers joined in the fun as the Guiding movement in the Vale started their year-long celebrations to commemorate their centenary.

There was a lively launch party at Barry Boys Comprehensive School when the girls engaged in an energetic disco but also enjoyed traditional party games like pass the parcel.

Great fun was also to be had on two bouncy castles and cowgirl skills were practised on a rodeo bull.

A chill-out area gave the girls the chance to enjoy a quiet period for a chat, a drink and a snack with friends as the air around them filled with bubbles from a bubble machine.

The VIP visitor was Mrs Fran Mitchell, president of Girlguiding's Vale of Glamorgan district and she judged the colouring competition which she said was a difficult task as standards were so high.

The girls also watched a DVD on a large screen telling the story of the movement. They saw how a group of brave young girls approached Sir Robert Baden Powell at a Boy Scouts rally at Crystal Palace in 1909 and asked for "something for the girls." He duly obliged and the movement was formed.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Girl Guiding as Liz Fryer, Guider for St Athan, who was a guide when the movement celebrated its 50th birthday, blew out the candles on two enormous birthday cakes.

The centenary celebrations will run until October 2010 and the year will be full of opportunities for girls from all sections of the movement to get involved in a range of activities.

Catering students raise £200 for cancer charity

BARRY College hospitality and catering learners (pictured above) have raised more than £200 for charity at a special coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Roger over and out, after career that took him from the moon to Llanfyllin!

A WELSH Ambulance Service radio engineer from Dinas Powys who helped bring the first moon landing to a global audience, is signing off, 40 years after the historic event.

In 1969, Roger Mugford was part of the team that ensured the television pictures of Neil Armstrong stepping onto the lunar surface were beamed to every part of the world.

Now, Roger is retiring after a career that has taken him to Swinging London in the 1960s, Iran, the Labrador coast of Canada – and every single ambulance station in Wales.

Back in 1969, Roger (65), was a young radio engineer on secondment as a military adviser to a missile early warning base on the wild Labrador coast.

He was one of 20,000 telecoms specialists used by the US government to make sure the live pictures of the moon landing went round the world.

"I was actually on shift as Neil Armstrong stepped down the ladder onto the moon," he said. "It was one of the highlights of my life."

Somerset-born Roger's career with the US forces had included a spell on an Air Force base in Iran, as well as a couple of years in Labrador tracking Soviet activity at the height of the Cold War.

"The most worrying was in 1968 when Russia invaded Czechoslovakia and we had military airplanes fully armed in the air – we nearly went to war that year."

Before that, Roger had begun his working life with EMI: "We called it the Easy Money Institute – they signed up the Beatles in the 1960s and used to make big profits from record sales," he explained.

In 1976, he joined the ambulance service in Wales and if he was one of 20,000 for the moon landings, he holds a unique place in the Welsh Ambulance Service.

"I'm the only person to have been to every ambulance station in Wales – in fact, I've had a cup of tea in every one.

"I'm the only one and it took me 27 years. The last one I got to was Llanfyllin. I was the first and only radio engineer to work with the service and there'll never be another one. It's all done differently now.

***LEFT:** Roger Mugford, left, pictured with regional director of Ambulance Services for South East Wales, Grant Gordon.*

Roger was responsible for designing the service's radio systems and that's what took him around the country.

He said: "There are probably a lot of ambulance drivers around Wales who are sad I'm going because when they had radio problems, I'm the one who they used to phone up to fix things."

Last year, quick-thinking Roger baled out the Ambulance Service when flooding posed a major threat to their former control room at Church Village, near Pontypridd.

He went from hi-tech to low-tech as he organised mops and buckets as water poured into the basement of the old South East Region control room. That earned him a Welsh Ambulance Service regional employee award for south East Wales.

He explained: "I was doing my daily check of the building at Church Village when I noticed there was flooding of the basement which is a large room, perhaps a 100ft by 60ft.

"Hundreds of gallons of water had poured in and it was continuing to pour in from a pipe – the weight of water was just forcing its way through.

"I just jammed things into the pipe to stop the flow and set about it with a mop and bucket and others joined me.

"The floor was flooded to a depth of four or five inches over dangerous live electricity cables and there was water sloshing around, but people just turned up and helped clear up, it wasn't just me.

"If the electricity had gone, the control room would have shut down and it would have taken tens of hours, days, to get it back up again and could have put lives at risk."

The South Wales Fire and Rescue came to help out but their large bore pump was too big to get under the cabling so it took a bit more ambulance service ingenuity to overcome the problem.

"One of my colleagues, Roger Jenkins, went out and bought a water pump from the local garden centre and we used that.

"I suppose between us all we saved the day, because all the electrical equipment would have been shut down for the first time in 11 years," he added.

With time on his hands, Roger and his wife, Judith, hope next year to visit the USA to catch up with some of his old GI buddies from his days working for Uncle Sam and he said: "I've been lucky to do radio as a hobby and people have paid me for it."

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'DON'T MISS OUT THE GEM!' ASSEMBLY URGED

CONSERVATIVE AMs Alun Cairns and Andrew RT Davies have welcomed news that the Welsh Assembly Government is to review the way in which it advertises in Wales.

The Vale-based regional AMs had pressed the WAG to advertise in the most appropriate newspaper and websites in each area and according to its target audience.

"The newspaper industry has changed considerably over recent years and advertising policy should reflect that. The most appropriate outlets should be used, including free newspapers and the internet.

"Although The Glamorgan GEM is a free newspaper, it carries a high percentage of news and editorial," he pointed out.

"The committee recognised that some adverts were not hitting its target audience and newspapers, including The GEM, were missing out," Mr Cairns added.

Evidence to the committee was also given by a senior manager from the Tindle Group, which owns The GEM, and his evidence was supported by Mr Cairns.

Andrew RT Davies added: "I am pleased that this review is taking place and I will continue to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to adopt the most appropriate outlets for things like legal notices."

'Excuse me, you have a bird stuck on your van'

A COWBRIDGE man was driving through the town recently in his Citroen van and was delighted to see people waving at him – but the waves were more of a warning than a friendly acknowledgement!

Mr Chris Jones, who owns local company Approved Property Maintenance, explained: "As people were waving at me I thought: 'I'm very popular today. It wasn't until I got to the VIP dental clinic, where I was going to carry out some repairs, that the lady in the Gallery Bistro pointed out that I had a pigeon stuck in my radiator grill!

"I tried to get it out but failed. I'm six feet tall and 18 stone and my hands were a bit too big!

ABOVE: The pigeon stuck in the grill of a Citroen van – but it soon recovered.

"I then drove to the vet's clinic in Arther John's yard and they removed it. "When I left it was fine, and the vet's practice said they would contact the owner as the bird was ringed."

Mr Jones added: "I can only assume that as I was driving along it had flown straight into the grill."

ARTIST'S EXHIBITION

A NEW exhibition by popular Welsh artist, Aneurin Jones, at Penarth's Washington Gallery, was launched on November 8, by broadcaster Beti George.

It will be visited by another Heritage Minister , Alun Ffred Jones AM.

The exhibition, entitled 'Recent Work' focuses on the places where the people of the Welsh countryside congregate, in the marts, agricultural shows and sheepdog trials.

Local children from both Welsh and English-medium schools will be visiting the exhibition with other special guests, such as harpist Kathryn Rees-Peak who also teaches harp workshops at the gallery.

ProAct (and rest of the team) are helping to pull Welsh economy out of recession

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

AS we approach the ninth economic summit involving the business community with their trade partners, the banks and local government, we continue to pull together to help lead Wales out of the recession.

The strength of 'Team Wales' has proved itself over the past year since the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM announced that he would be chairing a series of summits to ensure that government was intervening effectively, guided and advised by our partners in business, engaging with government at all levels, including the Secretary of State for Wales, to ensure that all our levers were in place to help employers and their workforces through the economic downturn.

This has put the spotlight on my department, with our responsibility for education and skills, leading to the early development of a pioneering new scheme called ProAct announced last December and up and running by January 2.

This has been geared up to support around 12,000 individuals in workplaces, where employers have developed approved training plans backed by a wage subsidy as they seek to upskill their employees through shorter working weeks and a downturn in business.

ProAct is an innovative 'Made in Wales' programme, supported by a £48m budget attracting European funding across Wales.

The First Minister has described the delivery of this programme in this way: *"I have never come across a scheme that had gone from being an idea thrown across the table at a summit meeting, to being implemented... in the space of about 2 months. For a peacetime bureaucracy in work - that showed an extraordinary level of agility and commitment on the part of our officials in devising the scheme."*

By last week, applications had been received from 336 companies for support from ProAct; 173 training applications had been approved for 144 companies and a total of 7287 individuals supported through these applications.

Already, nearly £19.2m has been committed to companies and training providers including further education colleges across the whole of Wales – and the support is going to businesses of all sizes from as few as two employees to 1,500-employee strength.

This also includes companies who have accessed ProAct funding to support apprentices. In fact, 188 apprentices are now being supported via ProAct.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, we are supporting apprentices at Dow Corning, as well as supporting other Vale companies with our new pathways to apprenticeship scheme, young recruits and shared apprenticeships.

I recently visited two companies in the Vale who have received ProAct funding and was impressed with their enthusiasm and support for the Welsh Assembly Government scheme, which was recently commended in the *New York Times* and has been regularly praised in UK press and broadcast items.

Symons Madge training and business development consultants, based in Cowbridge but working all over the UK, told me how their staff had benefited from the upskilling opportunities funded through the scheme.

Talking to the directors, Peter Symmons and Bryan Madge, who lead this company which provides training in the civil engineering industry, I could see how ProAct was meeting their business and skills needs, paving the way for the uplift in the economy providing new skills and opportunities for their administrative workforce.

I was also pleased to hear that they were responsible for the 'year in industry' contracts with Cardiff and Swansea universities, as well as their developing interest in training in the renewable energy fields.

Visiting the Corinthian Stonemasons at the Stoneyard in Atlantic Crescent by No 2 Dock in Barry, opened up for me an understanding of the skills and craftmanship in the heritage and stonemasonry industry where training opportunities via ProAct have provided an important boost to the Company.

I met with Drew Griffiths and Andy Armstrong who have developed and manage this company with a highly skilled workforce for this part of Wales, resulting in contracts far and wide – from small local developments, to large-scale regeneration and heritage schemes.

ProAct funding will help upskill the company to enable them to become trainers themselves which will be a huge plus for the stonemasonry workforce.

It was great to meet such a motivated team, including a UK skills champion – Robert Tinsley – one of the Corinthian team.

It is important that we promote the PRoAct scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales and beyond. It has helped businesses through the recession. Some have already withdrawn because business is up again, others have gained new higher level skills. It is widely admired across the world.

As we take stock at our 9th economic summit on December 3 in Aberystwyth, we will be looking forward to 2010, to ensure that government does listen to business and their employees; that we do intervene with skills development programmes like ProAct, but also with our leadership and management skills programmes, advised by our Wales Employment and Skills Board, chaired by Sir Adrian Webb, and all our partners in Team Wales.

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CHRISTMAS FAIR

LLANTWIT MAJOR Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are holding their annual Christmas fair, at the Llantonian Hall, on Saturday, November 14, between 10am-12pm.

"Come and join us for tea/coffee and mince pie and a browse around the stalls. Why not visit Santa in his grotto or decorate biscuits? Admission £1.50 for adults; children admitted free," a spokesperson said.

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FATHER AND SON TEAM AIM TO BRING A VILLAGE PUB BACK TO ITS ROOTS

by PHILIP IRWIN

OVER the last 20 years, the public has changed the way it looks at public houses.

The advance of the huge City of London-based conglomerates – each of which owns hundreds of pubs – has made them lose their aura of being a part of the local community.

The very phrase 'tied house' smacks of lack of choice – something that matters to any consumer.

On top of that, rumours of high rents being charged by fat cats in the City led to customers feeling that they were being ripped off.

It was because of that background that the father and son team of Arthur and Liam O'Leary decided that they would only take on Cowbridge's Cross Inn if they could buy it outright from Punch Taverns and operate it as a free house.

LEFT: Arthur O'Leary is bringing 27 years of experience to the Cross Inn

ABOVE: Head waitress Anne with some of the restarant's wine selection.

Arthur and Liam were, after all, only putting into practice what they had learned over 27 years of running the Glenbrook Inn in Barry – a pub they continue to keep.

Arthur feels strongly that the iron grip of the conglomerates has limited the options of landlords – and that it has been a major factor in the number of pubs that have closed in recent years. At its worst it was running at 50 each week.

So, Arthur and Liam believe strongly that there is a bright future for the village pub – especially if the landlord listens to the customers – and that is exactly what they have done over the last three months since they took possession of the inn.

They gave themselves three months to complete a refurbishment, but they went into it with open minds. Arthur told The GEM: "When we looked at the bar, the obvious thing to do was put down a new carpet etc, but the locals said they really liked a cosy bar where they could drop in while out walking the dog!"

The result is a '"dog-friendly" bar with a hardwood floor – and it even has hooks where you can tie up Fido!

It's a genuine free-house too, with the standard beers (Hancock's Home Brew and Wye Valley HPA) at £2.50 a pint – and the promise of regular guest ales.

The O'Leary's know their ciders and lagers too, and Arthur speaks highly of their Italian Peroni, and, from the west country, Stowford Press Traditional Draught.

However, the refurbishment is far more obvious in the dining area, where an extensive and versatile menu will be available in very smart surroundings, seven days a week – courtesy of head chef Darren Wilkins, who has 22 years experience, with The Angel Hotel in Cardiff, the Wales Millennium Centre and also the Copthorne, on his CV.

Again, the team has listened closely to their potential customers in putting together the Cross Inn's menu.

This area of the pub, where Liam and Arthur will be welcoming diners, has been given an impressive look, and it seats a good number of diners without anyone feeling squeezed in.

Darren is responsible for the menu, and he describes his cooking as home-made traditional, with elements of French cuisine – but the accent will always be on local, fresh and in season.

As a result, the chef's specials will change regularly, but there will always be a two-course menu at £9.95 (and a three-course at £12.95) Monday to Friday, 12 noon to 2.30pm, and 5.30pm to 7pm, featuring home-made pies, beer-battered cod, braised belly pork and pan-fried pheasant..

There will also be a full a la carte menu, and that will be on offer until 9pm weekdays, and on Saturday (12 noon to 9.30pm). A typical menu choice was this one that I found very tempting – a lobster and crab risotto with wilted greens and mascarpone.

A range of Sunday roasts (12 noon to 3.30pm) are also going very well in the short period since they were introduced.

There is also a very tempting Christmas party menu that has been put together for December – and an extra special dining experience is promised for Christmas Day!

With fine dining, of course, comes wine, and Arthur is fond of the description 'From around the world and from across the road' – because in addition to a fine mix of wines from all the chief wine-growing countries, the Cross Inn will be featuring wines from the Glyndwr Vineyard – and it is hard to get closer than that!

The 27 years of experience in the Glenbrook is one thing that they bring to the pub. On top of that, they are experienced outside caterers, with extensive experience of weddings, birthdays and Christenings - with a great deal of advice to offer as well.

So, things are changing at the Cross Inn – and definitely for the better!

ABOVE: Head chef Darren Wilkins.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan Community Council

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the November council meeting, so I hope readers of my column will understand I am unable to give a full account of the meeting.

Treoes Community Centre

AN application has been made to the Vale Council for a grant for work to be carried out at the hall. This will be done following a surveyor's report.

I understand the damaged waste pipe from the hall, which encroached onto the children's play area, has now been repaired.

Planning

PERMISSION proposed for single-storey extension, to house disabled toilet at Llangan and St Mary Hill community hall.

Full planning permission for new extension to existing cattle housing building at Ruthin Fawr Farm, St Mary Hill.

An application has been made to Vale Planning, re: Tresaeson House yard, Tresaeson House, St Mary Hill, for a detached dwelling to replace existing warehouse.

Ruthin Chapel

IT seems very little progress is being made regarding the future of Ruthin Chapel.

The only thing that has happened over the past few weeks, is some larger areas of the roof are now visible, owing to the apparent removal of the ivy which covered the roof.

Tennis courts

I UNDERSTAND the Llangan Community Council is still waiting for approval for the former tennis court at Treoes to be converted into allotments.

There are a number of applications for the allotted spaces. As suggested by Coun J Vafidis, access to the area needs serious consideration. My own view is that there is very limited parking space close to the proposed allotment area.

Lane flooding

THE problem of flooding in Elasto Lane, Llangan, continues whenever there are a few hours of heavy rain; in fact, the whole area in and around Llangan is in dire need of a complete overhaul.

There are potholes everywhere. Last week, a local retired couple in Llangan were forced to walk in the centre of the road, because of the thick mud left behind by a tractor involved in hedge cutting.

Some concern was expressed by Coun L Vafidis about the possible flooding at Twchwyn Garth, which is situated near the bridge at the lower end of Llangan.

After several hours of heavy rain, there is often a build-up of water.

If the area under the bridge is blocked with mud and leaves, the water will find its way into Twchuyn Garth, invading homes – which occurred some months ago.

Tondu art exhibition

THE Tondu and District Art Society will hold its winter exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig (near Bridgend) on November 14-17, at 10am-6pm daily.

Free entry; light refreshments; raffle.

Christmas ice rink aims to give Vale a real winter boost!

by TIM CHAPMAN

IN just 23 days time, Barry Island will have its own Christmas ice rink on the seafront – with the aim of drawing visitors to the area and giving the local economy a vital boost during the festive season.

The rink, which will be constructed in late November, is due to open on December 5, and will welcome visitors until January 5, when children return to school.

Mr Pat Collins, whose family have been involved in Barry's tourism industry for four generations, told The GEM: "Too many facilities have gone out of the town and this is an attempt by the Island to reverse the trend – we're hoping that the Barry and Vale community get behind it.

"My son Patrick has been organising it all and has liaised with the Vale Council, who have been very positive about the venture.

"The ice rink is an entirely new way of promoting the island and is a stimulus for businesses locally to stay open.

"Amusements on the Island plan to trade every weekend through the winter.

ABOVE: Barry seafront is going to have an ice rink! Pat Collins shows the location for Barry Island's latest attraction.

"Construction on the rink will start around November 23. It will measure 15 metres by 15 metres, and there will be a viewing area with tables and chairs for family or friends to watch.

"Why should people from the Vale have to travel all the way into Cardiff to have a go on an ice rink? Just parking in the capital is expensive, here it's free and we're going to give people unlimited sessions, rather than a time restriction."

Island traders have proved a hardy bunch in recent years, taking the highs of bumper summer and bank holiday weekends with the lows of poor weather in their stride.

Mr Collins pointed out: "Negativity is no good – we are taking the attitude we must make things succeed."

The half term burst of visitors was an encouragement, as Mr Collins explained when he spoke to The GEM:

"What has surprised me is that visitors have not just been locals – there have been people from as far away as Birmingham and the West Country.

"We've still had groups of people visiting the attractions even as dusk has been falling."

Coun Steffan Wiliam, who represents the Island on the Vale Council, praised traders for the new initiative.

"It's brilliant news – I'll be the first on the ice!

"Why should people have to travel into Cardiff to enjoy an ice rink with all the extra expense that can entail?

"This will give people an opportunity to have a go on the rink and then have a coffee or a festive drink and see what else the Island has to offer."

Coun Anthony Ernest, Vale cabinet member for tourism and leisure, said: "We very much welcome the excellent initiative put forward by the Barry Island traders for Christmas and the New Year.

"The ice rink is entirely their own idea, and we have been very pleased to offer them a substantial grant towards the cost of operating the rink for a four-week period over the forthcoming festive season."

Coun Ernest added: "I wish them every success and hope that this exciting attraction brings many more visitors to the Island, to add to those who have already enjoyed their visits to Barry during this year's summer period."

'Calendar Boys' reveal themselves for charity

ABOVE:
'The Cowbridge Calendar Boys' hope their calendar, due out soon, will be a big hit for Children in Need.

PHOTOGRAPH by GLYN EVANS

THE photographs of the 'Cowbridge Calendar Boys' were taken on Tuesday of this week, and as The GEM went to press were being delivered in greatest secrecy to a printer to prepare a calendar for publication.

As reported in last week's GEM, the original 'Calendar Girls' were a group of WI members from Yorkshire who wanted to raise funds to fight leukemia. They posed naked except for strategically placed items to preserve what remained of their modesty.

In a bid to do something for Children in Need, the businessmen of Cowbridge decided to release their inhibitions and borrow the concept.

GEM photograher, Glyn Evans, said: "Twenty gents took part on Tuesday. It took about 10 hours to complete, and each of the guys had a prop that was carefully placed.

"They didn't seem too nervous and were more than happy to bare almost all!

"It's a great way to do something for Children in Need."

The men hope the calendar will be a big hit in the town and the Vale, and the GEM will give details of where it can be purchased as soon as they are available.

Glyn added: "Next year, I'm hoping the businesswomen of Cowbridge may do a similar thing."

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

Volunteer surgeries

THE Volunteer Bureau will hold and outreach surgery to offer advice and information on the 700+ different volunteering opportunities in the Llantwit Major Library, at 1pm-3pm, on Tuesday, November 17.

Table top sale

THE St Illtud's Christmas coffee morning and table top sale is on November 28, at Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, from 10am-12noon. Everyone welcome.

To book a table telephone Margaret Muir on 01446 790289.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please send them to - The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL; or alternatively, you can email them to the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

BE KIND TO THE ANIMALS

I AM responding to the letter from Mr Peter Thomas which was given such prominence in The GEM on November 5.

Alana Davies was on solid ground regarding the support of the "overwhelming majority of the British public". For many years, poll after poll has consistently shown that at least 75 per cent of those living in towns and the countryside are against the perverted practice of killing animals for fun.

Her clearly stated views will also place her on solid ground, come the next election.

I have nothing against the countryside or the people who live there. I and the majority of the British people simply require them to be kind to the animals that also live there.

Nick Canever,
Ogmore-by-Sea

Cosy nests for sparrows

FOR some years, I have had on my bookshelf, for reference, Rob Hume's *Birds of Britain and Europe*, from which I gather that house-sparrows often take over the old nests of house-martins.

In my view, the house-martins' nests available from garden wildlife handbooks look much nicer, and more comfortable, than nesting boxes.

They cost about £20 a pair (sparrows prefer to nest in a group) and, if anything, enhance the appearance of a house.

So, let's have more sparrows, which at present are declining in numbers! But try and keep your lawn!

Heather Montgomery,
Llantwit Major

Car trade-off?

IF I trade in my 17-year-old 70,000-mile banger for a £2,000 discount off a new car, virtually any new car will lose more than that as soon as I drive it away.

Why would I want to do that? Why not buy the almost new car from someone who has done so?

RH Bradshaw, Cowbridge

SEED OF DOUBT OVER WOMEN-ONLY LISTS

IN my response to Alana Davies' article in The GEM on all-women short lists, I would like to say that I totally agree that our elected bodies should be more representative of society as a whole.

It is a travesty that only 20 per cent of our MPs are women; however, the introduction of all-women short lists will do very little to encourage more women to come forward for selection and merely elevate those women who are already engaged in the political process.

The fact of the matter is that over twice as many men apply to be candidates as women. There are many more men on the approved list of candidates and it is not particularly surprising, therefore, that more men are being selected.

The fact of the matter is that associations are adopting women in rough proportion to the number of women on the candidates' list. I don't believe that associations have a pre-disposition for selecting men over women – they are merely interested in selecting the best candidate from those who apply.

It is not right that men should be barred from standing if they are the best candidate. It would be unfair and unmeritocratic for associations to be denied the right to choose a candidate based on their gender.

On many occasions, all-women shortlists may mean that the best candidate is chosen. However, there will always be a seed of doubt if 49 per cent of the population are excluded from the process.

This is not fair on the winning candidate as associations may wrongly come to the conclusion that the candidate is second rate.

Alana Davies calls the introduction of all-women shortlists a 'positive' measure. In my view, discrimination in any guise can never be described as positive. Instead of imposing discriminatory measures, we should be reaching out to people who haven't considered being candidates before.

Alex Williams
(Chairman, Ogmore Conservative Association)

Cancer Research UK charity thanks food festival crowds

THE Cowbridge committee of Cancer Research UK Cymru would like to thank the people of Cowbridge and many visitors to the town who have supported our eents and collections during the last year.

Our recent collection over the Food and Drink Festival weekend raised £875. In October, customers at Tesco Talbot Green and Culverhouse Cross contributed a magnificent £1,650.

Our next event is the annual Christmas coffee morning on Tuesday, November 24, at 10.30am-noon at Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. There will be a cake stall, Christmas goods for sale, tombola, bric-a-brac, book stall and a raffle.

Tickets £2.50, including refreshments, may be obtained from committee members, or by telephone numbers 01446 774062, 01446 773072.

Get in the Christmas mood and join us!

Though it's a little early, our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our supporters.

Fran Davies
(On behalf of Cowbridge committee Cancer Research UK Cymru

Making votes count for armed forces family

I THOUGHT your readers might like to know that there is an easy way in which they can ensure that those standing as candidates at the next general election do their bit for the whole Armed Forces family.

The Royal British Legion has published its own general election manifesto outlining what it wants the next government to do to help Service personnel and their families,bereaved armed forces families and the ex-Service community.

The campaign calls can be viewed at w.timetodoyourbit.org.uk or a hard copy of the manifesto can be obtained by calling 01304 205 900.

TC O'Sullivan MBE
Llantwit Major Branch
The Royal British Legion

Remember Marie Curie nurses

I AM writing to ask your readers to consider remembering Marie Curie Cancer Care in their wills.

Gifts in wills are vital to the charity – they fund one in three Marie Curie Nurses like me, who care for terminally ill people in their own homes at the end of their lives.

It may surprise readers to discover that you do not need to leave an enormous amount to make a real difference to patients – £20 helps fund an hour of free home nursing care for someone with a terminal illness. You could leave a small one-off cash gift, or a share of your estate to the charity.

A gift in your will is also a tax-efficient way of giving, as the charity will not have to pay any inheritance tax on your donation. To find out more, please visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/legacies, or call 0800 716 146.

Your support will help Marie Curie Nurses reach more patients who wish to spend their final days at home, surrounded by their loved ones.

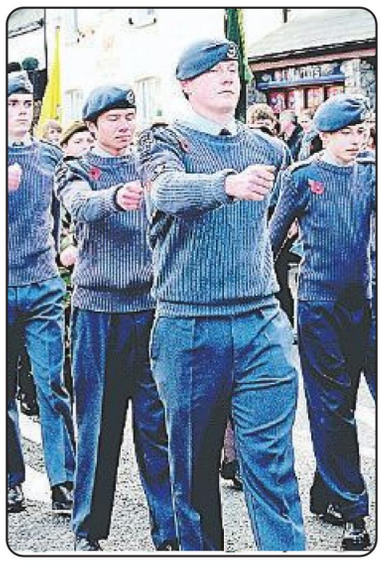
Deborah Morgan
(Marie Curie nurse)

Cowbridge's Day of Remembrance brings the crowds out to pay a heartfelt tribute

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY in Cowbridge began when the traditional parade made its way to Holy Cross Church, where the service was conducted by three local clergy: Canon Derek Belcher, Rev Norman Williams, and Rev Heather Weddell.

After the service, the parade marched back towards the town hall and the Cenotaph, where the two-minute silence was observed with particular reverence this year

PICTURES ON THIS PAGE BY IAN DIXON



THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS ARE LACKING IN FOCUS

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

THERE are some things in life that are surprisingly true – no matter how ludicrous – the act of tipping in Iceland being considered an insult for one, or the fact that terrible twins John and Edward are still competing in *The X Factor*.

Yet Hollywood seems to be the natural place for these strange tales to end up (though in the latter case let's hope not), and *The Men Who Stare at Goats* certainly fits that bill.

Based on the book by Jon Ronson, the film tells of Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor), a reporter whose journalistic instinct kicks in when he meets Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) in Kuwait a special forces agent who claims to be a former member of a unit that employed mind powers in the field.

The pair travel to Iraq, and Lyn tells Bob all about his story, but as the pair wind up on a supposed mission, they end up meeting another psychic soldier who isn't using his abilities as intended...

Giving the state of conflict the world finds itself in at present, it's no surprise that films concerning the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are making their way to cinema screens. Similarly, given the intense scrutiny placed on these wars by the media, it isn't surprising that filmgoers are not being particularly moved by these efforts.

The Men Who Stare at Goats is a film with this conundrum – how can a film be made on the nature of war while trying to ensure an audience for it. Well, certainly its offbeat stylings make it a somewhat different viewing experience from, say, *Lions For Lambs* or *In The Valley of Elah*; but ultimately, no matter how much it wants to take swipes at the nature of war and the apparent careless attitudes projected by those in power, it doesn't quite work out.

It is undeniably funny, there is no doubt about that, taking what is on the surface a ludicrous yet true story and having a lot of fun with it, and the comedy benefits from a skilled cast who do a decent job with the material given to them.

Given his political leanings, it's hardly a surprise to see George Clooney on duty here, but he delivers a delightfully enjoyable turn as the former psychic agent.

Playing it deadly straight, Clooney's turn is superb, bringing to mind his work in the likes of *O Brother, Where Art Thou*, giving Cassady an ethereal yet bumbling and goofy presence that befits the comedy.

Opposite him, Ewan McGregor provides a sound foil for Clooney in a role that feels a touch underwritten and only there to help move the story along – even though the story comes from his character's point of view, McGregor feels a touch too peripheral.

However, Cassady's constant references to his character having 'something of the Jedi' about him is a neat little in joke, and the actor handles the character's slow immersion into this strange world with a degree of aplomb.

Given the strength of the remainder of the cast, there is hardly a foot put wrong; Jeff Bridges is, as ever, quietly brilliant as the army colonel who believes that the only way to fight the enemy is with flowers, peace and love. While it's more or less The Dude with added hippy philosophies, Bridges gives the supporting role a wonderful degree of heft.

Meanwhile, Kevin Spacey delivers a mischievous little turn as a new recruit out to upturn the psychic apple cart, clearly taking great relish in being the smarmy bad guy.

The screenplay from Peter Straughan makes a good fist of grounding such an absurd premise (and takes a few liberties with how events actually panned out), but doesn't shy away from highlighting the ludicrousness, instead revelling in the slightly daft tone the films plays in.

What is lacking, though, is any real bite to the film, its satirical aims not quite landing, and though setting itself up as a film that aims to be relevant, almost shies away from the issue.

Grant Heslov's first major directorial outing is handled well, bringing a smooth yet idiosyncratic style to the film and giving it a nice visual feel.

A production partner of Clooney's, Heslov has obviously taken a few leaves from his book, the film feeling a kinship with *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* in its approach and feel. What he does less successfully though, is balance the flashbacks of the story within the narrative, the overall feeling slightly jarring and disjointed at times.

While the ingredients are all there, the end product of *The Men Who Stare At Goats* just feels a little too flat and forced; while wonderfully fast-paced and knockabout, there just feels like there is something missing from the mix.

VERDICT - Hugely funny, yet feeling a touch undercooked and unfocused, *The Men Who Stare At Goats* is still a great way to spend 93 minutes.

Strong turns and solid direction make for a fast-paced comedy, but those expecting any real bite to the humour will be disappointed. *Enjoyable*.

MODEL RAILWAYS

BARRY and Penarth Model Railway Club will hold a model railways exhibition day at Cadoxton Conservative Club, Vere Street, Barry, on Saturday, November 14, at 11am-5pm.

Admission: Adults £2; children/OAP £1.50.

PENARTH FAIR

A CHARITY fair to support local causes will be held at Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way, Penarth (opposite the Spar shop), from 2pm-5pm, on Saturday, November 14.

Christmas novelties, crafts and jewellery. Entrance is free.

Lest we forget the sacrifice (and miracles) that saved Britain

by REV J WILLIAMS

SEPTEMBER 3 marked the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and some are saying "it's so long ago, why remember the past?"

This view shows how uninformed some people are today. The fact that these events took place 70 years ago is irrelevant, because the real issue is that the consequences are still with us today.

If the outcome of the war had been different, you wouldn't be alive to read this article and I wouldn't have been born to write it.

This uncomfortable truth must never be forgotten. Many don't realise just how close we came to defeat and national annihilation. This country was in such a terrible state we were brought to our knees – quite literally.

At first, when war was declared, nothing much happened, but within a few months France and Belgium fell to the Germans.

The only port from which to evacuate the British Army was Dunkirk, where they were trapped against the sea.

Our troops were encircled and the German army was proceeding to their annihilation.

The position was so serious, it was estimated that a mere 20,000 would be rescued.

Almost the entire British army was about to perish. There was no human solution to this crisis; the end of the British way of life had come – or so it appeared.

In sheer desperation, King George VI called for a national day of prayer to be held on May 26. In a national broadcast he instructed the people of the UK to plead for divine intervention.

Together with members of the cabinet, the King attended Westminster Abbey, while millions of people across the British Isles flocked to churches praying for deliverance.

Nothing like it had ever been seen before.

Two great phenomena followed this day of prayer. The first was a great storm which broke out over the area on May 28, hindering the assault of the German airforce, and the second was the great calm which settled on the English Channel the likes of which hadn't occurred for decades.

This calm enabled an armada of boats to rescue about 335,000 men. Four years later, Britain was able to provide a 'launch pad' for the liberation of Europe.

If the British army had been destroyed at Dunkirk, the UK would have been occupied and the liberation of Europe would never have happened. This must never be forgotten.

During the war, there were so many instances of divine assistance at crucial moments that in October 1942, Churchill commented: "I sometimes have a feeling of interference. I want to stress that. I have a feeling sometimes that some Guiding Hand has interfered. I have a feeling that we have a Guardian because we have a great Cause and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that Cause faithfully."

During this season of remembrance, let us reflect that we are now living our lives because of deliverance and miracles, as well as the sacrifices made by countless people in the field of conflict.

And as we remember, we must ask "is the UK showing itself worthy of such deliverances? Is our society setting an example to the world by our beliefs and moral standards?"

The stark lesson from wartime is that if we want to be delivered from the problems besetting our nation today, we need to put God and the 10 Commandments back at the heart of our society.

Showing our heroes their legal rights

WITH Remembrance Day just passed, our thoughts turn to the many servicemen and servicewomen who have fought for their country during two world wars or in more recent times.

Many of us will be wearing poppies in remembrance of the sacrifices these brave men and women have made.

At the Legal Services Commission, we work to ensure that people in the local area who have risked their lives for their country can find expert advice about their rights when they return home.

The men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world are, of course, at the forefront of our minds at this time, but it is important not to forget those who bravely served in earlier conflicts.

We have produced an online information leaflet called 'Veterans: rights for former servicemen and women and their families'.

It explains about financial help available to veterans, serving forces personnel and their families, and also gives practical advice on matters such as finding accommodation or work on leaving the forces.

It also lists the contact details of organisations that provide help and support to former forces personnel.

You can download the leaflet from www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk. It can be found at the following link: http://www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk/en/legalhelp/leaflet25_5.jsp

The legal aid funded Community Legal Advice helpline (0845 345 4 345) can also help people on benefits or low incomes, by providing free expert legal advice about Family matters, Debt, Employment, Education, Housing, Welfare Benefits and Tax Credits.

Paul Davies
(Wales Director, Legal Services Commission)

Vale roadworks

Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant – ongoing footway restrictions in place.

Church Road, Bridge Street, Cowbridge Street, Barry – traffic barriers in place; carriageway width restrictions; ongoing.

Thompson Street, Dock View Road, Barry – temporary traffic control.

Weston Square tunnel, Cardiff Road, Barry – road closures (ongoing).

CHRIS FRANKS AM
Plaid Cymru Assembly Member
South Wales Central
ADVICE SURGERY
WHEN: Friday 13th November
WHERE: Albert Road Methodist Church Hall, Albert Road, Penarth
TIME: 4.00pm - 5.00pm

THE SPECTACLE WAREHOUSE
Rimless Direct
SPECTACLE MANUFACTURE & REPAIR SERVICE
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Just bring along your prescription, choose your frames from our extensive designer collection and we'll do the rest.
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01446 733444
UNIT 8B, ATLANTIC TRADING ESTATE, BARRY
HOW TO FIND US: Drive along Cardiff road towards roundabout 1 turn right onto Sully Moors Road, toards roundabout 2. Take second exit onto Hayes Road. At roundabout 3 carry straight over until you reach roundabout 4. Take your first exit left and follow road to roundabout 5. After 300 yards drive through Green Banks Care Group's entrance and we are on the left hand side - Unit 8b Rimless Direct.
Free Bifocals With This Coupon
when you spend £69 or over on a pair of our designer frames
(CONDITIONS APPLY)

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus
Keep Wales Tidy

TIDY TOWNS PROJECT IN SECOND YEAR

Tidy Towns is a Welsh Assembly Government funded project delivered in partnership by Keep Wales Tidy and Local Authorities. The project aim is to support the people of Wales to take responsibility for their local environment and carry out sustainable, practical improvement projects.

Groups and volunteers adopt areas of their local environment and undertake practical improvement projects such as; fly tipped waste removal, litter picks, path maintenance, installing benches and picnic sites, invasive species clearance, improving disabled access, developing community gardens, running waste amnesties and habitat management, graffiti removal.

As part of a Tidy Towns group you can develop your ideas for improving the quality of the local environment and get help with funding, advice and practical assistance and training which is available to volunteers on a wide range of issues.

TIDY TOWNS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

The Tidy Towns project has had a very positive response in the Vale of Glamorgan in the past eighteen months with over forty groups having joined in the scheme in one way or another. Many of these groups are long term and aim to make a lasting improvement to the environment. These include community groups such as Craig Penllyn and Penarth Marina Residents. Organisations such as Llamau and Scope as well as schools in the county see great benefits in volunteering and embracing environmental issues.

Llamau Supported Housing

Craig Penllyn Residents

Penarth Marina Group

St Nicholas Primary

Llantwit Major Comp

Scope Action Group

Tidy Towns Community Grants Scheme

Financial support for volunteer groups & projects

Are you a Tidy Towns Group or do you have a project in mind?

Do you need a grant?

Through the Tidy Towns Project, Keep Wales Tidy is able to offer financial assistance to community groups who demonstrate a commitment to tackle environmental projects which will restore their local area to its former glory. These grants are available for cover the cost of:

- Tools and other equipment
- Refreshments
- Insurance
- Awareness raising
- Training

How to apply for a grant

- Before you do anything speak to your local Tidy Towns Project Officer.
- Complete the application form and send it back to your Project Officer who will add their own comments and forward to the Keep Wales Tidy Grants Committee.
- The Grants Committee meet once a month to check that applications have been completed correctly and that all criteria are met.

For help and advice on practical projects please contact Ian Harvey on 02920 726985 or e-mail ian.harvey@keepwalestidy.org or tidy.towns@keepwalestidy.org

To request a TT grant application form please telephone 01446 700111 or email visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, alternatively for more ideas you can visit the council website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Doves Centre Penarth receive the funding for their community garden improvement project

Soul in Dinas volunteers putting their funding assistance to good use

Support for Tidy Towns from Ian Harvey KWT (*left*) and the Vale Enforcement Team (*right*)

tidy.towns@keepwalestidy.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

WINE TASTING

A FINAL reminder that there will be a dinner with Chateau du Seuil wines on Saturday, November 14, at the Fox & Hounds, contact Sue or John.

WHIST DRIVE

THE next Llancarfan Society whist drive will be on Tuesday, November 24 at the Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Admission is £1 and there will, as usual, be prizes, a raffle and refreshments.

Date for the next event is December 29.

CALL MY BLUFF

ON Friday, November 20, there will be a 'Call My Bluff' wine tasting evening in the Village Hall, which has been organised by the Llancarfan and District Community Association and Llancarfan Primary School PTA.

These have been very successful over the years and the original panel of Andrew Thorn, David Stevens and Sam Smith will once again challenge the audience.

Contact Julie Potter (01446 781271) and Sue Taylor (01446 781453) for full details.

All proceeds are to go to Llancarfan PTA and Hall funds.

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Got a news story for us? Then call us on **01446 420681**

or email: news@broradio.fm

or contact the Glamorgan GEM on **01446 774484**

FUW DINNER 'VERY SUCCESSFUL'

County farmers ponder a world without cows

LEFT: Left to right: Brian Walters (vice-president), Gareth Vaughan (national president), Richard Thomas MRCVS (guest speaker), Glyn Jones (county chairman), Emyr Jones (deputy president) and John Llewellyn (county president).

A VERY successful dinner was recently held at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, when the county president, Mr John Llewellyn, warmly welcomed guests.

A toast to the Glamorgan County branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales was proposed by Union president, Mr Gareth Vaughan.

He referred to the controversial motion proposed by Peter Black (Lib Dem) and Lorraine Barratt (Labour) to annul the TB Eradication Order (Wales) (2009) Act.

Mr Vaughan welcomed new members of county staff and Adrian Evans, county executive officer, and Ed Jones, area officer, were also welcomed and wished every success.

Mr Glyn Jones, county chairman, thanked the president and said the county was making progress, although finding it difficult to recruit younger members, especially those in the milk sector.

He then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Mr Richard Thomas MRCVS, (Dic y Fet, as he is known).

A very humorous talk ensued with some very serious moments when Dic also referred to the letter proposed by the union to contact their AMs to request them to vote to support the TB eradication order.

He believed that if we didn't act in this way, we could well see Wales with hundreds of thousands of badgers and NO cows in the future.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Lorraine Howells, south Wales member of the finance and organising committee.

She referred to the other well-attended dinner being supported by some prominent union leaders being present – including Emyr Jones, deputy president and Brian Walters, the vice-president.

They were all thanked for their support of the county.

A raffle was held and the first prize collected was a signed autographed book by guest speaker, Richard Thomas. **AE**

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01097/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of health centre to financial and professional services (class A2)
Location:/Lleoliad: Cowbridge Health Centre, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01099/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of health centre to offices (class B1)
Location:/Lleoliad: Cowbridge Health Centre, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01104/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed refurbishment of 12 Paget Road to provide A3 use cafe/restaurant to lower ground and ground floor with proposed rear extension to extend the existing residential dwelling to floors above
Location:/Lleoliad: 12, Paget Road, Barry Island
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Barry (Marine)

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01109/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey kitchen/dining extension to front of property and conversion of existing integral garage into utility room and store within single storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad: 9, St. John Close, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01112/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey extension with various roof alterations
Location:/Lleoliad: Cross Green, Llancarfan,
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llancarfan

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01097/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of health centre to financial and professional services (class A2)
Location:/Lleoliad: Cowbridge Health Centre, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting The Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2009/01099/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of health centre to offices (class B1)
Location:/Lleoliad: Cowbridge Health Centre, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting The Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan
Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Hensol Castle, Miskin, Pendoylan.

I give notice that J. H. Leeke & Sons Limited, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Proposed amendments to comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including conversion and extension of castle as hotel, conversion of ward blocks to residential use, development of holiday accommodation, new two storey staff accommodation and restoration of walled garden.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £125.00 (Non Technical Summary = £15.00) from RPS Group, Park House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AF so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:
- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 3 December, 2009.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 3 December 2009 quoting reference 2009/00965/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Hensol Castle, Miskin, Pendoylan

Hysbysir trwy hyn J. H. Leeke & Sons Limited, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Proposed amendments to comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including conversion and extension of castle as hotel, conversion of ward blocks to residential use, development of holiday accommodation, new two storey staff accommodation and restoration of walled garden

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £125.00 (Non Technical Summary = £15.00) oddi wrth/o RPS Group, Park House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AF tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:
- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 3 Rhagfyr, 2009.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 3 Rhagfyr 2009 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2009/00965/FUL.

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 14 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 12 November, 2009
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 12 Tachwedd, 2009
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Pupils observe Remembrance

ABOVE: Head boy Jordan Moore and head girl Jessica Dawe.

Each year on Remembrance Day, pupils at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School gather in the assembly hall.

They listen to a presentation on the work of the British Legion, observe a two-minute silence and offer prayers for those serving in the forces, their families and for a peaceful and just solution to the conflicts and troubles of today.

Assemblies during the week concentrated on the significance of November 11 in history, and why it is important to remember the sacrifices of the past and present. The school's deputy headteacher, Ms Christine Morrish, said: 'Several of our pupils have family members serving in armed forces. This is a particularly poignant time for them,'

The head girl, Jessica Dawe and head boy, Jordan Moore, led the service. Jordan said: "I was pleased to take part in the school's commemoration of Remembrance Day.

"My father served in the Gulf War. It is important for young people to know and be grateful for the sacrifices of the past and also to respect the work of our armed forces in present conflicts."

Homes & Gardens

Tenants have new forum to work with Vale Council

ABOVE: Representatives of five tenants' associations who have signed up to the Vale of Glamorgan Tenants' Association Compact are pictured with Coun Paul Church (front, left), Peter Evans (front, centre), and Tony Jaques (back, left).

VALE Council tenants are being given a greater say in a range of issues relating to their homes.

The council and five tenants' associations have signed up to the Vale of Glamorgan Tenants' Association Compact. A recently-formed tenants' association for Brecon Court, Barry, is expected to become a further signatory in the near future.

The new 'compact' sets out clear commitments for both parties, and the way in which tenants can influence the decision-making process relating to a wide range of local authority housing services.

Representing the council at the official signing of the compact were Coun Paul Church, cabinet member for housing and community safety, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, chair of the scrutiny (housing and public protection) committee, Peter Evans, director of legal, public protection and housing, Tony Jaques, head of housing, and Heather Powney, tenant development officer.

Stressing that the council viewed tenant involvement as a key part of its work, Coun Church said: "Over the last two years, the number of tenants' associations in the Vale has risen considerably and each of them brings the views and opinions of individuals directly to the council.

"The council values the input of tenants and, as a direct result of their involvement, the council is reshaping existing housing services and providing new services."

MAKE AUTUMN THE COLOURFUL GRAND FINALE FOR YOUR GARDEN

AUTUMN splendour is always the grand finale of the growing season, as leaves turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and deep red, while berries provide further interest – and not just for the birds, *writes* HANNAH STEPHENSON.

If you are now looking out on a bare garden with little colour, think about the ornamentals you could plant to add some pizzazz to the scene and contrast well with each other.

Autumn colour shows up best with a solid, dark background such as conifers and evergreen shrubs, so bear this in mind when planning.

Trees should be used carefully so that their effect is a highlight, rather than just a small part of a busy planting scheme. Green is still the most important colour in the garden and should therefore be the most prevalent, so don't overdo it with bright-leafed plants or the effect will not be restful.

The ornamental cherry (Prunus sargentii) is a wonderful specimen whose young leaves are red, turning to dark green. In the early autumn they become brilliant orange-red and finally a deep red. The leaves don't drop at the first hint of frost, but last longer on the tree.

A smaller tree is the Persian ironwood (Parrotia persica), which grows to eight metres and whose leaves turn to a patchwork of orange, bright red and purple-red in autumn, although it needs acid soil for good leaf colour.

Combine trees and shrubs of different hues.

The rich, deep reds and burgundies of Japanese maples such as Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood' contrast beautifully with the yellowing leaves of silver birch, while Chinese lanterns (Physalis alkekengi) provide additional warmth with their bright orange, lantern-shaped fruits, ideally in a large shrub border in a woodland setting.

Plant perennials such as bearded irises at the front of the display for structural foliage from spring to autumn, and for flower colour earlier in the year.

If you don't have room to add more plants to your borders, select a Japanese maple in a pot for warm autumn colour. Choose a container at least 30cm in diameter and a compost comprising equal parts John Innes No 2 potting compost and a soil-less multi-purpose compost.

Add lots of drainage material in the base of the pot and top-dress the compost with gravel.

Ideal specimens for a pot include A palmatum dissectum 'Garnet', whose leaves open bright red and then deepen to a rich garnet colour. This deciduous acer is very slow growing - up to 1.8 metres in 10 years – and looks great alongside a pond or in an ornamental planter.

Acers should be grown in moist but well-drained soil. The foliage colour is best in dappled shade, although full sun can be tolerated.

Shrubs can also provide dazzling foliage tints and flowers. Look out for Euonymus alatus, the spindle bush, which is a world away from the compact, variegated evergreen forms we use for shady gardens and winter hanging baskets.

This one is deciduous, but produces spectacular autumn colour, producing a molten crimson display. It is medium-sized, fitting into most gardens.

Other good choices for autumn colour include Hebe 'Autumn Glory', which produces purple bottle-brush flowers which can last until Christmas, and the oak-leafed hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia), whose leaves turn purple in autumn and hang on to the plant for ages.

If you have a wall which looks bare in the cooler months, train a colourful pyracantha along it, which produces clusters of sizzling orange autumn berries and white spring flowers. This evergreen shrub has a vigorous, dense and spiny habit and can also be planted as a barrier hedge.

Train it like a cordon, and in years to come it will reward you (and the birds) with masses of colourful berries.

Other shrubs with colourful autumn fruits include Berberis x carminea 'Pirate King', Callicarpa bodinieri var giraldii 'Profusion' and Cotoneaster salicifolius 'Rothschildianus'.

Autumn in the garden can truly be the firework display before the more muted tones of winter set in.

Best of the bunch – Cotinus...

Commonly known as the smoke bush because of its fluffy plumes of pale pink flowers which appear above the foliage in summer, producing a smoke-like haze, this deciduous shrub is a must for the autumn garden.

You need a fair amount of space as it can become the size of a small tree, so grow it as a stand-alone specimen or in a large shrub border in sun or light shade, in moist but well-drained, moderately fertile soil.

Good choices include C 'Flame', whose oval, light green leaves turn brilliant orange-red in autumn, and C coggygria 'Royal Purple', grown for its purple foliage, whose leaves turn orange and red in autumn before falling.

Good enough to eat...

Broad beans have been chosen by the National Trust as one of the top three veg to grow in winter, as part of its 'Food Glorious Food' campaign aimed at encouraging the next generation to grow their own.

Sowing at this time of the year means they won't be attacked by pests, while children love picking them and eating them straight from the pod - a great way to get them eating vegetables.

Only attempt autumn sowing if your plot is sheltered, free-draining and in a mild area – and choose a hardy variety.

For all other locations it's better to sow under cloches in early spring. Early beans can be harvested from May onwards.

As part of its campaign, the National Trust will mark the start of the winter growing season with a series of events including winter vegetable workshops and cookery demonstrations. See www.foodgloriousfood.org.uk for more details.

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Director Leanne Edmonds added: "We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service."

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Beavers offer their thanks to veteran

LOCAL Beavers who attended the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Cowbridge were quick to show their appreciation to World War Two Navy veteran Mr Ian Bryce DSC.

ABOVE: Local Beavers cluster round World War Two veteran Mr Ian Bryce – the Bryce family were deeply touched by the gesture.

Mr Bryce, who was born in 1922 in Darlington where he spent his childhood, moved to Cardiff at the age of 12.

His daughter, Mrs Peta Ball, told The GEM: "My father trained for the sea on HMS Worcester while on the River Thames, and joined the Merchant Navy in 1938.

"In 1939 he was called into the Royal Navy as a reserve officer serving in HM ships Kittewake, Fitzroy, and Oribi during WW2.

"At the age of 18 he was involved in the evacuation of British and French troops from Dunkirk, for which he received the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross).

"He was also involved in the Russian Convoys and many other missions during the war."

Mrs Ball said the gratitude shown by the Beavers to her father was very much appreciated.

"My family were so touched by the group who thanked my father for what he had done during the war. It meant a lot to him."

Mr Bryce wrote a book about his life which was published by The Memoir Club and was entitled: Shipmates and Mistresses, by and large'.

Bridgend funeral for M4 collision victim

THE funeral of a Llantwit Major man, Mr Neil Holland, who was killed in a collision on the M4 on October 26, is to take place at Coychurch Crematorium next week.

Mr Holland, who had worked at MoD St Athan, was travelling back to south Wales with his girlfriend Irene Pears when the car they were in, a red Ford Focus, collided with a safety barrier, overturned and caught fire.

Mr Holland was declared dead at the scene and Mrs Pears was taken to the Great Western Hospital with serious lower leg injuries. She is currently in Morriston Hospital, Swansea undergoing further treatment.

The couple were returning to Wales after a holiday in Cyprus.

There has been shock at the King's Head public house in Llantwit Major where they were well known.

Scott Buckley, the son of Linda and Tony Buckley the landlords of the King's Head said: "Neil was the sort of person who would do anything to help someone. A lot of the regulars plan to go to the funeral next week.

"He and Irene were on holiday at the same complex in Cyprus as my parents, who will also be attending the funeral."

The funeral will be at Coychurch Crematorium on November 19 at 12 noon.

A Wiltshire police spokesman said: "Anyone who witnessed the collision, who has not already made contact with the police, or who saw any vehicle involved beforehand, is asked to call the serious collision investigation team at the Central Roads Policing Unit in Chippenham, on 0845 408 7000 or via the Crimestoppers number 0800 555111."

Dinas Powys pauses to remember 'the fallen'

DINAS POWYS' former service personnel, villagers and young people turned out in force at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Dinas Powys branch's organisation of a small but collective act involved 34 tributes being laid at the War Memorial on the Twyn, and was again well attended.

"Once more, the weather was kind to all who gathered, and despite the passing of the years and the declining number of veterans, the amount of people who joined us from the village and across the surrounding district demonstrated how strong the feeling is about Remembrance.

"It was time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave servicemen and women of the past and the present too."

Mr Allan Johanson (left) prepares to lay a wreath.

Rev Huw Rhydderch.

Margaret Hayley and John Huw Williams.

PHOTOGRAPHS by CHRIS FRANKS

RIGHT: Tom Wallis was remembering his father.

Mr Arthur Coxen.

Coun Richard Grigg, Dr Ian Johnson and Coun Margaret Randall.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 119

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 20 WELSH ST DONATS)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER

1. Notice is hereby given that the above named Order made on the 27th day of October 2009 is about to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government or to be confirmed as an unopposed Order by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
2. The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modification, will be to divert the route of the public right of way from that described in the First Schedule to this Order to that described in the Second Schedule to this Order.
3. A copy of the Order and the map contained in it may be seen at the address below during normal office hours.
4. Any representation or objection with respect to the Order may be sent to the Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT before the 10th day of December 2009 and should state the grounds on which it is made.
5. If no representation or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan may, instead of submitting the Order to the Welsh Assembly Government, itself confirm the Order. If the Order is submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government, any representations and objections, which have been duly made and not withdrawn, will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 12th day of November 2009

FIRST SCHEDULE
Existing Route of Footpath

Commences at ST 0301 7788 at the north eastern corner of Llwynddu and runs southwards through a narrow alley to a stile below an electricity pylon at ST 0306 7770. The path then runs northeastwards across a field, then northwards along the field boundary to the farmyard to ST 0318 7786. The path turns eastwards to cross the former farmyard at ST 0326 7787 then follows the accommodation road to terminate on the adopted highway at ST 0342 7777.

Length: 661 metres Width: undefined

SECOND SCHEDULE
New Route of Footpath

Commences at ST 0301 7788 at the north eastern corner of Llwynddu and runs eastwards across a field to ST 0317 7792. The path then follows the field boundary northwards to ST 0318 7796 where it turns eastwards across two fields to ST 0347 7796 at the adopted highway. The path then continues southward along the adopted highway to terminate at ST 0342 7777.

Length: 691 metres Width: 1.2 metres

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Out and About with The GEM

Concert for St Donats funds

VILLAGE CHURCH PROVIDES THE ATMOSPHERIC SETTING FOR BAROQUE MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

THE little Church of St Donats was the venue for an atmospheric candle-lit concert of Baroque music recently, when Chris Davies of Atlantic College and musicians drawn from staff and students, arranged and performed items in aid of church funds.

Seen above are Maren Strommen (violin) and singers with soprano Angharad Davies (centre).

Photographs by HEATHER MARCH

Craft and Christmas plans at Holy Cross

THIS Saturday, November 14, Holy Cross Church is inviting children to come and make a Christmas decoration.

This is to be part of the Christmas Tree Festival, which runs from November 27-29.

The craft drop-in session will be held from 2pm-4pm and everyone is welcome.

Following the successful holiday club 'starship discovery' the theme of the tree will be stars!

Refreshments will be provided.

sue Freeland said: "W apologise for starting Christmas decorations in November, but to be included in the Christmas Tree FEstival an early start was needed.

"In fact, as 50-plus trees are anticipated at the Christmas Tree Festival, there are many groups all over Cowbridge who have started planning and decorating early."

ADVENT

ANOTHER plan for Advent is being introduced to Cowbridge this year.

It is called Posada (Mexican for Inn). It is based on the Mexican tradition of children dressing up as Mary and Joseph, and travelling from house to house.

In Cowbridge, the nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey will visit different houses.

People are being invited to make room in their houses for them for one night during the Advent period. The figures will arrive in a basket with a nativity storybook which people can read.

People may like to light a candle (safely!) or invite friends around the night they arrive.

The next day they will be passed on to the next household on the list.

The figures will return to Holy Cross Church ready for the crib service on December 24, at 4pm.

Sue added: "This is a lovely way to make room for Jesus this Christmas.

To book a day telephone me on 01446 775947 or e m a i l kandsfreeland@aol.com.

For more details on the above arrangements please contact Churches Together in Cowbridge.

JAZZ WITH A SWING AT COWBRIDGE TOWN HALL

FOLLOWING their successful performance last year, the Youth Big Band will make a welcome reappearance at Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, November 21.

The talented youngsters, an offshoot of the Cardiff and the Vale Youth Orchestra, absolutely thrilled the audience during last year's concert.

Since then, there have been numerous requests for a return visit. Their vibrant playing had feet tapping and the old beams of the town hall creaking!

They had a brand of music to appeal to all tastes – including standards by Glen Miller, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra and other big band classics.

The ticket price of £12.50 includes a succulent hot meal of bangers and jacket potatoes There will be a licensed bar and raffle.

The proceeds will go to support the work of the volunteers of the St John Ambulance, who carry out such valuable first aid facilities at so many events in the Vale, as well as manning the First Aid Post and the safety boat at Barry Island.

It promises to be another superb night, so why not come and join us?

Admission by ticket only, which can be obtained on 01446 781329.

BASIL WATKINS

Park rangers looking for volunteers

PARK rangers at Porthkerry Country Park are looking for volunteers who would like to help to attract more wildlife.

Vital conservation work is carried out at the popular country park during the winter months, and Vale Council ranger Mel Stewart said:

"Everyone is welcome to join our work parties.

Previous experience of conservation work is not essential as training and equipment will be provided."

Dates set for the winter work parties, which start at the golf hut at 10am and finish at 12.30pm, are: Sundays, November 15, December 6 and 20, and January 10 and 24.

Volunteers will be working outdoors so stout footwear and waterproof clothing are essential.

For more information, please contact Mel at Porthkerry on 01446 733589 or email porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Valeways walks

November 14, 2pm, The War Turrets, Lavernock. Start from Visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth..

***November 15**, at 2pm, Rhoose & Nurston Millennium Trail Circular. Start at Rhoose Railway Station car park.*

***November 18**, at 2pm, St Mary Church and Llandough. Start at St Mary Church, centre of village by bus stop.*

VALE PACT MEETINGS

COURT PACT, The Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, today (November 12), 7.30pm.

PETERSTON SUPER ELY, Pendoylan Council meeting, Pendoylan School, today, 7.45pm.

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Barry, November 16, at 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, at town Leisure Centre, November 17, at 7pm.

COFFEE and chat at the Horse & Jockey public house, Twyn-yr-Odyn, November 17, at 11.30am.

DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road, Barry, November 18, at 6pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

PTA Ladies night off!

LLANILLTUD Fawr Primary School PTA is holding another 'Ladies Night Off' event on Friday, November 13 at 7.30 pm-10.30 pm in the school hall.

Various treatments will be available for an additional charge, including Indian head massage, manicure, mini facial,waxing. There will also be stalls with jewellery, pashminas, beauty products, cards.

Contact Djemilla Price on 01446 796728 or Clare Price on 01446 794730.

Llantwit Major Art & Craft Group
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE
at the LLANTONIAN HALL
(Pensioners' Centre) Llantwit Major
Saturday 21st November from 10am to 4pm
ENTRY FREE
15 different stalls from cards to jewellery, plants to wood turning, textiles to ceramics, lino prints to pictures.
Refreshments available / Christmas Raffle
Please come and support your Local Art & Craft Group

Christmas fair is for the birds

VOLUNTEERS from RSPB Cymru are organising a Christmas Fair in Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday November 14, between 10am-12.15pm.

Admission is free. There will be stalls selling RSPB Christmas cards, diaries and calendars, as well as second hand books, bric-a-brac, a tombola and raffle, a cake stall and refreshments.

All proceeds go to support the work of RSPB Cymru. For more details, please contact Joy Lyman, RSPB Volunteer on 029 2077 0031.

The next indoor meeting of the Cardiff and District local group will take place tomorrow (Friday, November 13) in Llandaff Parish Hall. Derek Moore is giving an illustrated talk entitled 'Birds of Wales'.

The talk starts at 7.30pm, admission charge is £3 for adults, £2.50 for concessions, £1 for students and under-16s. Meeting is open to all – it is not necessary to be an RSPB member.

Lottery results

TOP three winners of the Lifesaving Lottery, from Wales Air Ambulance were:

£1000 winner – Mr A Doughty. Llanmaes, Llantwit Major (LL54673); £200 winner – Mrs C Humphreys. Newton, Swansea (LL13018); £100 winner – Miss M Gray. Llangunllo, Knighton (LL41760).

Win a Gladstone bag of stamps!

WILLIAM GLADSTONE, former Prime Minister who made his home in Wales, is featured on Royal Mail's Eminent Britons stamps alongside historical figures from the world of science, art, literature, politics and sport.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win a presentation pack featuring the illustrious characters in miniature on the stamps by entering this month's competition in conjunction with Royal Mail.

To enter the competition, all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

*Which former Prime Minister features on the stamps? **A** Tony Blair **B** Harold Macmillan **C** William Gladstone.*

Send your answers on a postcard, marked Stamp Competition, to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than November 20.

Good luck everyone!

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THE VALE OPEN LEARNING CENTRE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS

NOW in its 20th year, the Vale Open Learning Centre has celebrated its success story with a presentation event hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams.

The centre helps individuals from across the Vale wishing to improve or refresh their reading, writing, language, numeracy or IT skills and, last year, received 580 enrolments, 50 per cent of whom achieved nationally-recognised qualifications.

The English, maths, IT and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses are held at the centre headquarters at Provincial House, Kendrick Road, Barry, the Palmerston (Barry) centre and in Penarth. The Family Learning courses are run in partnership with local primary schools who host the classes.

For some students, the courses serve as a stepping stone to further learning and, for others, to greater employment opportunities. ESOL courses have enabled individuals to pass examinations to gain British Citizenship, a spokesperson said.

Presenting certificates, Coun Williams congratulated the students on their success:

"It is a credit to your commitment that you have found the time to study while working and/or bringing up a family. You should feel justifiably proud of your achievements," he told them.

Centre manager Coralie Morgan and head of lifelong learning, Dave Prosser thanked Coun Williams for hosting the event and "taking time out of your busy schedule to help recognise the marvellous efforts of our learners."

Coralie added: "We are extremely proud of both our students for their success and our tutors who prepared them so well."

ABOVE right and BELOW right: Vale Open Learning Centre learners on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses proudly display their Cambridge: Skills for Life certificates with tutors and Vale of Glamorgan Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

ABOVE and TOP: Vale Open Learning Centre maths learners with City and Guilds and AQA certificates.

Vale Open Learning Centre English learners with their City and Guilds certificates.

Learners from Barry and Penarth classes celebrate success with their tutors.

LEFT: Family learning course parents from Gladstone Primary School, Barry, with their tutors

LEFT: Family learning course parents from Holton Primary School, Barry, with their tutors.

RIGHT: Vale Open Learning Centre computer students with OCR, Open College Network and CLAIT certificates.

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUNDUP

Remembrance Day is marked at junior rugby games

Under-12s at Bridgend Sports RFC very generously invited Cowbridge under-12s to play at Bridgend, due to the Cowbridge pitches being deemed unplayable due to the heavy rain.

Cowbridge dominated the forward effort with strong charges being made by Josh Brace, Frazer McGann and George Thomas. The pack was able to secure the majority of the ball and the under-12s' sparkling backs were able to attack the Bridgend defence time after time.

Tom Trotman added to his incredible scoring record by going over for three tries in the first half, while his left wing colleague Liam Sloane scored a fabulous solo try from his own half.

Both sides made a number of changes after the first half, which led to the Sports coming back with three well-worked tries.

The Cowbridge team started to impose themselves again and Ashford Thomas was only stopped from scoring a dazzling try by a high tackle, which led to a flurry of activity and a penalty.

Cowbridge were now back in control again and the backs were able to release Tom Trotman for two more pulsating tries to take his tally to five. It was good to see Jonny Harvey back in the team after breaking his collarbone a couple of months ago.

Final score Bridgend Sports 17 Cowbridge 36.

Full squad: Owain Thomas Jenkins, Cai Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Ben Jones, Frazz McGann, Rian Thomas, Richard Hughes, Tom Lucas, Rob David, Matt Harper, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Miles Davies, Jonny Harvey, Tom Trotman, Liam Sloane, Gabriel Newham, Harvey Stockwell.

The Cowbridge teams line up for a minute's silence at Ystrad Rhondda on Remembrance Day.

Under-10s

The under-10s travelled north for an eagerly-awaited clash with Ystrad Rhondda. The first match kicked off with Cowbridge in the ascendency and Ystrad pinned in their own half.

Rhys Bradshaw spotted a gap on the blind side and raced in at the corner to score the opening try. The opposition hit straight back to tie the scores, before Elliot Bancroft rounded his opposite number and regained the advantage.

Shortly before half time, Ystrad hit back with another good try to leave the half time score at Ystrad Rhondda 10 Cowbridge 10.

The home side applied all the pressure early in the second half and were rewarded with a try to take the lead for the first time.

Cowbridge then drove deep into the opposition half and were awarded a penalty. From a pre-planned move, Ioan Lewis popped the ball to Bevan Howells, who powered over the line, to once again tie the scores.

Late in the match, both teams desperately searched for the winner and Ystrad Rhondda managed the decisive score to leave a full time score of **Ystrad Rhondda 20 Cowbridge 15**.

Next were the development side, who came up against an opposition that included several players from the first team. However, the boys battled well in a very physical encounter.

For long periods of the game, the play was deep in Cowbridge territory and, despite their best efforts, the Rhondda boys were too strong in all areas of the game. A great deal of the play from Cowbridge was spent trying to clear their in goal area, with the boys reduced to kicking to touch.

Inevitably the tries eventually came and Ystrad Rhondda were worthy victors. Full time score **Ystrad Rhondda 20 Cowbridge 0**.

Full squad; Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Elliot Bancroft, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Liam Murphy, Luc Beattie, Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Oliver Reynolds, Patrick Sheppard, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under-9s

Cowbridge under-9s travelled to Ystrad Rhondda where the boys produced their finest performance of the season.

On a wet and cold morning, the boys came firing out of the blocks with some great driving runs and good recycling of the ball, resulting in three very quick tries for their flying centre Barney.

In a physical battle, Ystrad Rhondda never gave up, scoring a good try of their own leaving the half time score 3-1 to Cowbridge.

In the second half, Cowbridge were soon back in their stride with early tries from Harry Edwards, Ioan Williams and Evan Thomas – all coming from great work up front by Ben Jones and Iestyn Fenn.

With the team's confidence high, they finished the game strongly with a further two tries by Jamie Howells and, on the final whistle, Gabriel scored a well-deserved first try of the season to leave a final score of 10-1.

This performance was all down to a great team spirit and all the hard work the boys are putting into their training.

Full squad; Iestyn Fenn, Ben Jones, Ioan Williams, Jamie Howells, Lewis Hawke, Ben Batten, Will Tuckwell, Gabriel, Harry Edwards, Jack Dixon, Barney, Barty Norton, Evan Thomas, Daffydd Sedgwick.

Under-8s

An enthusiastic squad of 14 boys turned up at Ystrad Rhondda. However that enthusiasm was soon dented as Ystrad quickly showed their intent by scoring a try straight from kick off.

Cowbridge were slow to react and were turned over for Ystrad to run in another score. The speed with which Ystrad were playing upset the rhythm that the boys have been developing and heads went down.

A combination of missed tags and being slow to re-group in defence and attack meant that the game went quickly away from Cowbridge, who never looked likely to recover and lost 8 – 1. The try scorer was Jacob Williams

Full squad; Tomos apjohn-Williams, Oliver Bluck, Angus Henderson, Elis Howells, William Hawkins, Rory James, Joshua John, Huw Jones, Lewis Jones, Ben Lloyd, Jamie Owen, Miles Thomas, Edward Thomas, Oskar Williams, Jacob Williams.

Under-7s

The under-7s were away at Ystrad Rhondda and the game started briskly with a well-worked try from the home side, immediately countered by Cowbridge with a try from well within their own half.

However, thereafter it was a hard game for Cowbridge and they struggled to handle the pace of the opposition. Cowbridge showed good teamwork and defended well for long periods but Ystrad Rhondda made good use of a number of fast players running wide to score a total of seven tries, with one in reply.

However, the club did find out after the game that these boys were from the under-8 section, a mix-up which will not help the development of either team.

Cowbridge showed good skills and put together some excellent phases of play – let's hope that next time out they can turn this enthusiasm into a win.

Full squad: Sam Coates, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, David Harris. Morgan Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Elis Howell, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Charlie Lock, Dewi Williams.

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BOVERTON - £157,000

Modern three bedroom semi detached house with good size family accommodation as the integral garage has been recently converted into an additional reception room. Comprising Hallway, Lounge which has been extended, Fitted Kitchen, Dining area, Utility Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. PVC rainwater goods. Driveway to front and garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 465D

LLANTWIT MAJOR – £210,000

Modern three bedroom detached house and garage situated at the head of a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area with patio doors opening to rear. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 466D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £257,500

Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with garage and conservatory to the rear situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 474D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £320,000

Well maintained established detached bungalow and double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Study, Inner Hallway, Re-fitted Bathroom/Shower Room, Re-fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with French doors to rear, Sitting Room, Ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom, Three further bedrooms to first floor. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Workshop/Tool store. Mature gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 475D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £239,995

Well presented and maintained four bedroom detached house and Garage with a Conservatory to the rear comprising Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway. gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 476D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £310,000

Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with attached garage and conservatory at the rear comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining room, Fitted Kitchen, Breakfast room, Utility room, en-suite bathroom to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and good size gardens. Freehold Ref 477D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £320,000

Stone built detached three bedroom dwelling house which has been modernised and extended comprises Hallway, Cloakroom, Inner Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Luxury Bathroom, En-suite to master bedroom. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Parking area. Patio and garden laid to lawn, Freehold Ref 479D

ST ATHAN - £97,000

Modern three bedroom link house comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room with patio doors to rear, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Utility Room. Open aspect to the front and enclosed rear garden. Freehold Ref 480D

LLANMAES - £395,000

Individual built four bedroom detached house and garage situated in rural surroundings in the village of Llanmaes comprising Hallway, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen, Dining area, TV Room, Utility Room, Ground floor shower room, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway with turning area and good size gardens. Freehold Ref 481D

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ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1032980
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £84.53 per week including service charges

BEDFORD RISE, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 233152
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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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CADOC CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 203365
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £77.30 pw including alarm and service charges

CATHERINE MEAZEY, PENARTH

H4U Reference 237902
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £75.35 pw including alarm and service charges

CERI AVENUE, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 247141
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- Studio bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens
- Community alarm

Rent £81.06 pw including alarm and water charges

CRAWSHAY CT, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 234170
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £88.70 per week including alarm, warden and service charges

CRESSWELL COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206214
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.77 per week including water charges

DENBIGH COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 992928
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £67.61 per week including service charges

DOROTHY AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 251312
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.90 per week including water charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 230837
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £88.70 per week including alarm, warden and service charges

GREEN LANE, BARRY

H4U Reference 210605
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £80.45 pw including alarm and water charges

GWENOG COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 210617
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £98.31 pw inc.wdn, alarm and water charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY X 2

H4U Reference 1032559
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
- (2) One-bedroom flats
- First and ground floor
- Scheme Manager
- Community alarm

Rent £82.28 pw including alarm and service charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035309
Suitable for families
- Two-bed house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear gardens
- Parking

Rent £71.37 per week including service charge

MAGELLAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035296
Suitable for families
- Two-bed house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear gardens
- Parking

Rent £70.79 per week including service charge

MAIN STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 252574
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £72.48 pw including alarm and service charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 217847
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance

Rent £71.09 per week including service charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH X 2

H4U Reference 995592
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
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- Double glazing
- Manager and alarm

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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 219417
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm
- Walk in shower only

Rent £77.47 pw inc. alarm, water and service charges

ST GOVANS CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225076
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £71.71 pw including service and alarm charges

STRATFORD GREEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 225583
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.39 per week including water charges

TENSING TERRACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225973
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £90.50 pw including service and alarm charges

THOMAS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 953037
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £65.19 per week including service charges

TY GWENFO, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035310
Suitable for a single person over 40 – no pets
- One bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £66.81 per week including service charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Copperfield Court	10	Bronze	06/04/09
Cwrt Trem Yr Ynys	33	Gold	01/01/04
Carne Court	59	Gold	18/06/08
Cwrt Melin Y Rhos	31	Silver	14/08/09
Maes Yr Yagol	63	Gold	13/05/09
Abersaron Close	121	Gold	18/03/09
Caernarvon Gardens	17	Silver	14/06/04
Crawshay Drive	19	Gold	15/04/08

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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Murlande Way, Rhoose .....£475 pcm
Partridge Road, St Athan .....£450 pcm

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Heol y Dryw, Rhoose.....£595 pcm
Cwrt Newton Pool, Rhoose .....£625 pcm
Picton Road, Rhoose .....£695 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan .....£475 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan .....£500 pcm
Eurgan Close, Llantwit Major .....£650 pcm

4 BEDROOMS

Mayflower Way, Rhoose .....£850 pcm
Porthkerry Road, Rhoose.....£1,000 pcm

6 BEDROOMS

Porfa Ballas.....£1,250 pcm

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3 bed terrace corner plot **£95,000**

Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major

4 bed family home **£120,000**

St David's Crescent, St Athan

3 bed link detached with garage and conservatory **£139,950**

Caer Worgan, Llantwit Major

3 bed detached with garage and conservatory **£149,950**

Glebeland Place, St Athan

3 bed semi with conservatory and garage **£159,950**

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Family Notices

Moyra REES

Suddenly on October 28, 2009, Moyra, beloved wife of the late Mansel, devoted mother to Mark and the late Menna and precious Nano to Cathrine, Eleanor and Isabel.

Service and cremation on Thursday November 19, 2009, at 1.20pm at Emstrey Crematorium, London Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6PS, and afterwards at home.

Flowers may be sent to Pughs Funeral Directors, 133 Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN. Telephone: 01743 344646.

'There is no death, our stars go down To rise upon some fairer shore And bright in Heaven's jewelled crown They shine forever more'

SCHWEITZER Michael

Peacefully on November 2, Michael, former bursar of Atlantic College. Beloved husband of Deirdre, loving father of Nicola, Catrina and Patrick, a dear father-in-law and much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday November 13, service 1.30pm at St Donats Church, Llantwit Major followed by private cremation.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre or Velindre Care Trust, both c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

UPSTONE Victor Ernest

Passed away peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Thursday, 5th November. Dearly loved husband of Mildred, beloved father of John. Service at Ramoth United Free Church, Cowbridge on Monday, 16th November at 10.00am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research, sent to Thomas Bros, Funeral Directors, Cowbridge, CF71 7LR.

REYNOLDS, David

Peacefully on November 7th at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, David of Rhoose. Dearly loved father of Claire, Jayne and Emma, much loved grampy of Georgia, Ffion, Ellie, Joel, Maisey and Molly. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, November 19th, service 10.15am at Rhoose Presbyterian Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 11.30am. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Paula Spencer
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Penllyn WI are invited to light a Christmas candle

THE annual general meeting of Penllyn WI was held on the November 3, in Penllyn Village Hall when minutes read by the secretary, Pat Smith, were agreed and signed by Novello Peters, president.

The Christmas meal, will be on January 16 at the Farmers' Arms, St Bride's Major.

Marjorie Nash read the delegate's report on the Glamorgan Federation's autumn council meeting, held in Barry on Monday October 26.

Novello Peters explained to members the new ACWW project 'Light a Candle: Members were invited to bring a candle, a holder and some greenery or Christmas floral decorations to the December meeting to make a Christmas candle decoration in the workshop session.

Treasurer, Jill Watkins, read the financial report, followed by the secretary's annual report. The president thanked the committee for all their hard work, with particular thanks to secretary, Pat Smith and vice-president, Ann Saxton, who are stepping down from the committee.

Sue Smith, WI adviser, then took the chair. The rest of the committee was re-elected, and Novello Peters was once again re-elected as president. The new secretary will be Gill Petty, and Marjorie Nash will take over the role of vice-president.

Sue Smith enlightened members regarding background and procedures for WI resolutions, and explained the new voting system. She ended on a humorous note, reading some hilarious answers to exam questions.

Following raffle and competition results, there was a light-hearted musical quiz on' television theme tunes'.

The next meeting 'Sweets and treats for Christmas', together with a candle decoration workshop, will be on Tuesday, December 1, in Penllyn Village Hall at 7.30pm, refreshments will be provided by the committee.

New members are always welcome; meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall.

For further information, contact Novello (01656 674191) or Marjorie (01656 647115).

MN

WI members hear some musical highlights from stage and screen

MERTHYR MAWR WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Batten welcomed members to the November meeting and reported that the annual bridge drive at Ystradowen had been very successful, with 32 members from several WIs turning up to play, eight from Merthyr Mawr.

It was an enjoyable afternoon and Joan Glasgoe and Ann Hodges, played well to take second place.

We had a visit to the Wales Millennium Centre to see Matthew Bourne's production of Dorian Grey. A production with a modern interpretation of an old story, it caused much discussion, but all enjoyed the very high standard of dancing.

Following the business meeting, Margaret introduced the speaker for the evening – Jeff Woods whose topic was 'Favourite Comic characters of Stage and Screen'.

Known as the 'singing speaker,' starting with opera then stage and finally screen, Mr Woods talked about his favourite comic characters – Papageno from the *Magic Flute*, Florence Foster Jenkins, Gilbert and Sullivan and Laurel and Hardy.

It was an interesting and amusing talk illustrated with recordings and a few renditions from Jeff himself. Alice Coulter gave the thanks.

The next meeting will be on December 2, when members will enjoy the Christmas dinner.

FC

Cash office closure anger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The head of financial services at the Vale Council, Clive Teague, said: "The council's cabinet has decided that the closure of the area cash offices at Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major should go ahead.

"The council is conscious that its services need to be accessible to all Vale residents and, as outlined in the report to cabinet, there are already a number of alternative ways for residents to pay their council tax and other bills – direct debit, by telephone and over the internet.

"The council also recognises that some people will want a face to face service and will continue to accept payments at the Post Office and at local shops through the PayPoint and PayZone network throughout the Vale.

"The council will also ensure that alternative service points for information and recycling services will be provided."

No specific date has been set for the closure of the offices, but The GEM understands that it will probably be in the new year.

Vale Schools enjoy victory

LAST weekend, Vale Schools under-11s played host to Blaenau Gwent in a friendly match at Old Penarthians.

The Vale forwards showed their intent from the kick-off and drove deep into the Blaenau Gwent half. From a ruck, the ball was passed along the line for Cai Evans to score in the corner but the conversion was missed, 5-0 Vale.

As the half progressed, the Vale forwards continued to win good ball, giving the backs ample opportunity to attack and only desperate defending kept them at bay.

At a line out on the Blaenau Gwent 22, Joe Short won the ball and powered his way over for a try which was converted by Cai Evans, 12-0 Vale.

From the restart, Jack Evans picked up at the back and went down the blind side, only to be stopped five metres short.

The Vale forwards arrived en masse and Sean Boffy picked up and, with the help of his forwards, was driven over the line to score. The try was unconverted 17-0 Vale.

Will Gale then raced to score under the posts, and the try was converted by Cai Evans to make the half-time score 24-0 Vale.

At the start of the second half, Cai Evans used his pace to race upfield and score under the posts. He converted his own try 31-0 Vale.

Charlie Pegrum was then able to show his pace and score and unconverted try in the corner to make it 36-Vale.

Spencer Robinson, broke through the Blaenau Gwent defence and set the ball up to be passed along the Vale backs to Charlie Pegrum, who raced and scored under the posts. The try was converted by Cai Evans. Final score 43-0 Vale.

Vale Schools would like to thank Blaenau Gwent for travelling to Penarth and wish them all the best for the season.

We would also like to thank the Vale mothers for preparing and providing the after game meal.

SJ

AM praises leisure centre changing area

WORK has started at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on a new changing area which will include an adjustable level bed and extra space to accommodate a wheel chair.

"It is hoped that this development will make it easier for individuals with disabilities and their carers, to fully enjoy and utilise local leisure facilities," explained Vale AM Jane Hutt who visited the site last week.

"I am pleased to welcome this development which will allow everyone who uses the centre, easy and convenient access to leisure facilities.

"It was good to chat to those involved in developing the site which will include disabled car parking and access points, and to see the work which is already under way to improve access for all," the AM commented.

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw of November 6.

● **£2000:** Rollover. ● **£500:** 1 ● **£100:** 83. ● **£50:** 41. ● **£10:** . ● **£5:** .

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Rugby club plans for 'winter break'

EVEN though the autumn internationals are in full swing, as the Samoan game is on Friday night, Cowbridge Firsts travel to Old Penarthians this Saturday for the ninth league game of the season.

Kick off as always is 2.30pm and all support is welcome. Games against Old Pens are always close-fought affairs and both sides have similar records this season, so another tight game is expected.

Following that, there are only two more league games before Christmas - Cilfynydd at home on December 5 and Deri away on December 19.

The next planned seconds game is away to Canton on December 5, while the youth are away to Glamorgan Wanderers on November 21, and the ladies travel to Dolgellau on November 22.

A large crowd watched the All Blacks game at the club last Saturday, with a Wii tennis tournament, arranged by the ladies rugby section, providing the pre-match entertainment along with Swansea v Cardiff and England v Australia – a feast of sport.

Many thanks to all who attended the bonfire at the club last Thursday. As always there was a large crowd to enjoy the bonfire, fireworks and refreshments on a clear crisp evening. Also thanks to all those at the club who put in a lot of hard work to make the evening a success.

RV/RK

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Two junior teams make league cup semi-finals

by GWYN JOHN

IT was league cup quarter-final day in the Vale of Glamorgan League on Saturday and Llantwit Major had three teams in quarter-final ties.

All matches were at home and despite the heavy overnight rain, all matches were on, with the pitches at Windmill Lane in good condition.

Two sides made it through to the semi-final, the under-12A, who are unbeaten this season, had a tough home the against Cogan A, who have lost one match – and that was against Llantwit.

It was another hard-fought game with Llantwit coming out on top with a 1-0 victory. The winner came from Kristian Jones, who took his goal well to see his team through to the semi-final.

The under-15 side had no problem in going through to the semi, with a 7-1 win against Sully Sports B. The goals were shared between Yegor Young (two), Robert Sawyer (two), Kieron Sharrat (two) and Jack Uglow.

The under-16 team had a cracking match with Sully Sports A, with Sully snatching a late goal to win the tie 2-1. Llantwit played well and despite a good goal from Tom Mawhinney, they could not take their chances to win.

In the league games, the under-13A side won 6-0 at Sully Sports B. It was a good performance, with Dan Jennings scoring twice and the other goals shared between Zac Summerhayes, Jake Sutch, Lewys Morgan and Arron Phillips.

The under-12B visited Holton Road and lost 9-1 with Alfie Sanders getting Llantwit's consolation goal.

Wenvoe Colts visited Windmill Lane and were far too strong for the under-13B to record a 7-0 win.

Both under-14 teams were without fixtures on Saturday.

In the mini football, the under-9 Dragons and Tigers were fixtured together which produced an excellent match. Cameron Neves notched a hat-trick and Leighton Pawsey found the net.

Cole Baker and James Cooke scored for the under-10 Lions in a high-scoring match against Sully Sharks.

The under-10 Dragons were also involved in another high-scoring match against Sully Pumas with Luke Beattie (two), Bevan Howell (two), Angus Mitchell (two) and Laurence Bowman scoring the goals. A special mention for Angus Mitchell who gave an excellent display in a good team performance.

Cai Evans was in good form for the under-11 Tigers and scored against Rhoose in a close game.

Next Saturday, there are no matches as Wales play Scotland in Cardiff and the Football Association of Wales has ruled that no football matches can be played within 50 miles of Cardiff, so the children miss out on their football next week.

Ogmore's Christian is 'The Comeback Kid'

by BRIAN LEE

COMEBACK Kid Christian Williams from Ogmore landed the prestigious Ladbroke.Com Chase at Down Royal on Saturday on the Paul Nicholls' trained *Herecomesthetruth*.

The seven-year-old gelding was given an enterprising ride by Williams who went straight into the lead, and making all the running soon had the hot favourite *Forpaddydeplasterer* trailing in his wake.

Williams, who was once told he would never ride again after being seriously injured in a race riding accident, is as tough as old boots and has buckets full of courage.

Vale success

Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan both saddled winners at Ffos Las on Sunday.

Llancarfan's Williams had a double with *Danehill Willy*, who won the Barry Walters Catering Novices Chase under champion jockey Tony McCoy, and the Lindley Catering Novices' Handicap Chase with the bottom weighted *Sydney Sling*, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

The former won by eight lengths from *Norther Bay* and the latter won by a length from *Foxesbow*.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan took the Pearn's Pharmacies Ltd Novices' Hurdle with his six-year-old *House Of Bourbon,* who had two lengths to spare over *Lamboro Lad*, partnered by stable jockey Richard Johnson.

Deano's winner

Cowbridge's Deano Coleman chalked-up another winner when booting home the Tim Vaughan-trained *One Of The Boys* at Fontwell last Friday.

One Of The Boys, who went off the 5-2 favourite, scored by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Wondersobright*.

CLUB SAYS 'thank you' TO ITS NEW SPONSOR

IT was a big day for Llantwit Major RFC mini and junior section recently when one of their new sponsors, Celtic Ash, was presented with a framed warm up top.

Brian Davies (pictured above) represented Celtic Ash to receive the top. The section were proud to wear the tops at Llantwit`s Remembrance Day parade.

Simeon takes a top Welsh title

LEFT: Simeon Owen (left) and Craig Jarvis.

THREE Llantwit Major boxing club members took part in the senior novice championships over recent weeks.

Simeon Owen boxed in the semi finals in the 60kg 0-5 category on Thursday, October 29, at the Fairfields Social Club, Swansea. Simeon boxed Mark Bell of the Gelligaer ABC and went forward from the off, landing the harder shots on Bell's target area.

The bout carried on much the same for the next two rounds, the Llantwit boxer winning the contest 17.3. Sim was now in the finals, held in the Pengry Road Working Mans Club, Swansea, on Sunday, November 1 against Craig Jarvis of Portmead.

This bout was not for the connoisseur of the noble art, the two boxers staying close in a untidy affair with the referee having to repeatedly break them up. The first two rounds only scored 2 - 2. After a stern talk from senior coach, Tony Meakin, Sim came out for the last round to box. This he did as he won the bout 5 - 2, being declared winner and the WABA 60kg novice champion.

Gareth O'Callaghan boxed at the Four Seasons Club, Llansamlet, on Saturday. October 24 in the 91kg 0-5 category. His opponent was Luke Jefferson of Gwent ABC. Jefferson, the eventual winner, proved too strong for Gareth, the referee stopping the bout at the end of the first.

Callum Barrand took part in the 69kg 0-5 category at the same venue against T Wellington of Baglan ABC. Both boxers started at a fast pace with the Baglan boxer taking the contest to the Llantwit boy.

In the second, Callum managed to land scoring blows. In the third and final round, Callum's fitness took over with Wellington covering up to avoid the barrage of punches. Unfortunately, this was not enough the referee gave the Baglan boxer the verdict.

All the above and more of the Llantwit Major boxing team will be on show at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on Friday November 20. There will also be a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, with the first bout at 8.30pm.

Vale sporting clubs get community chest boost

LLANTWIT Major Amateur Boxing Club is one of six sports groups to receive a share of a special funding package boosting opportunities in the Vale.

Boxers at the club will soon have improved training facilities after they were awarded £500 in the latest round of Community Chest grants, agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team and the Sports Council for Wales.

Grants totalling £3,928 were shared between six local clubs, and included two maximum awards of £1,000, which went to Cowbridge Town AFC to improve football training for a range of ages, and to Penarth mini-junior rugby, to pay for coaching courses and equipment.

The three other groups benefiting from Community Chest grants were: Southerndown Surf Club – £528 to improve coaching standards; Inter Penarth AFC – £480 to form a senior football team; Amy Evans Community Mental Health Team – £420 to provide football opportunities.

These latest grants take the total awarded in the Vale in 2009 to more than £25,000, and it is hoped that more proposals will be made in 2010.

The Vale panel sits every two months and the deadline for the next round of applications is Thursday, January 28.

To discuss a potential application, contact the Vale council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793 or request an application form by calling Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.

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07 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch SE	Silver	14,200 miles	£6,995
CITROEN C3 PICASSO			
57 1.4 VTi 16v VTR+ 5dr Estate	Red	4,000 miles	£10.495
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08 1.6HDi 16v VTR PLus 3dr Dsl	Silver	10,364 miles	£9,495
56 1.6iHDi 16v SX 5dr Dsl Hatch	Silver	19,000 miles	£8,295
56 1.6i 16v SX 5dr Hatch	Mauve	14,600 miles	£7,995
56 1.6iHDi 16v VTR+ 5dr Dsl Hatch	Grey	60,000 miles	£6,295
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CITROEN C4 PICASSO			
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CITROEN RELAY			
09 2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Dsl	White	3150 miles	£12,645

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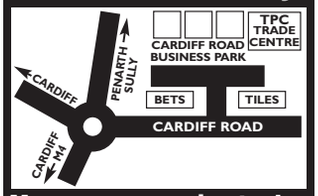

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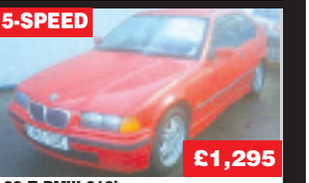
01 Y FORD Ka 1.3i. 3 dr, manual 5 spd, hatchback, petrol, 85k, met blue, MoT and tax, low insurance

5-SPEED



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Models shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX manual, Civic 1.8 i-VTEC EX manual, Insight 1.3 SE manual and Accord 2.2 i-DTEC EX manual. Fuel consumption for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 22.2 – 61.4 (12.7 – 4.6), Extra Urban 40.4 – 67.3 (7.0 – 4.2), Combined 31.0 – 64.2 (9.1 – 4.4). CO_2 emissions 215 - 101g/km.

Terms and Conditions: Advanced payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S manual, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE manual, Insight 1.3 SE manual and Accord 2.2 i-DTEC ES GT manual correct at time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher RateMobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 30th September to 30th November 2009 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Models subject to availability. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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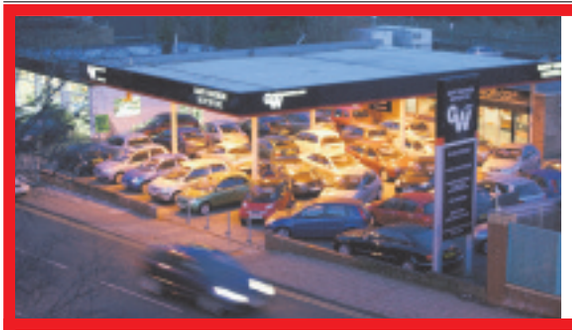

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GEM sport

COWBRIDGE'S SQUASH TEAMS ARE SITTING ON TOP OF THE TABLE

NICK GUARD and his Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash team took their league challenge to bottom of the table Risca B, searching for good points to maintain their promotion push.

Simon Payne, guesting for the A team at No 5, put in a solid performance to win 3-0 to set up a platform for the regular A teamers to follow. Niall Sloan (No 4), Jon Bisson (No 2) and Nick (No 1) all obliged comfortably with 3-0 victories also.

Garfield Leask was a little more generous, coming through 9-2 in the fifth to win 3-2 and so achieve maximum points for the team (match result 19-2 to the As).

This result keeps them in top slot by seven points as Caldicot dropped a point versus third-placed Cardiff Vets.

Cowbridge B skipper Russ Watts found himself scrabbling around for players for their clash with bottom-of-the-pile Llanishen B.Tony Steele stepped up from the Cs to play No 5 and turned in a creditable 3-0 start to the proceedings.

This was followed up by a sparkling performance from Russ Watts ,befitting the fireworks display that was taking place at the Athletic Ground the same night, winning 9-1, 9-2, 9-5 .

Steve Morris (No 3) kept the screw on and was even more miserly with the opposition points, winning 9-0, 9-2, 9-0 – conceding only two points for the second week running!

With the match won, all points gained at Nos 1 and 2 would be a bonus – Chris Ranger duly obliged with a 3-1 win at No 2, while Simon Payne suffered his first reverse of the season with some uncharacteristic errors ,going down 1-3.

Meanwhile, Colin Giles took his C team men to the David Lloyd Centre at Roath to face their respective C team – a team over which the Cs had achieved a handsome victory in Cowbridge, but the opposition proved to be a different prospect on their own patch.

Phil Matthews started a little shakily, losing the first cheaply 1-9, but recovered to get into his stride and secure a 3-1 win at No 5.

Unfortunately, neither Nick Groves (No 4), Tony Steele (No 3) nor Dave Matthews (No 2) could build on this and went down 1-3, 0-3 and 1-3 respectively.

Skipper Colin Giles finished with a flourish to score a 3-1 victory at No 1 (match score of 8-15).

This coming week, the As travel to Cardiff Vets (Monday) while the Bs and Cs host St Mellons D (Thursday 7pm) and David Lloyd B (Wednesday 7pm) respectively.

RUSS WATTS

School's year-11 hockey team is hampered by Katie's cruciate!

THE year-11 hockey team played in the preliminary round of the Cardiff and Vale County Tournament, an event they have won in each of the last four years.

This year, the star performer of the team, Welsh under-18 player Katie Howson, was unable to play due to cruciate ligament damage to her knee on which she needs an operation.

However, with county player Bethan Moorcraft drafted into the team, the team had to play Llanishen, St Cyres and The Cathedral School, although St Cyres withdrew from the competition.

Cowbridge played Llanishen in a 50-minute match. In the first half, Llanishen had two opportunities to score but great defence from Bethan Moorcraft, Sophie Dando and goalkeeper Georgina Jackson stopped their attempts.

Cowbridge had just the one opportunity from a short corner where Montserrat Bray missed an open goal!

In the second half, Llanishen came out hard and fast and scored two goals from their strong centre forward player. A third goal for Llanishen cemented a winning performance for them.

Rachel Bradshaw then scored a consolation goal which she single-handed set up and scored. A big disappointment for the girls in year-11. Also, we would like to wish Katie a speedy recovery. Player of the match was Rachel Bradshaw.

Year-7 hockey

The year-7 hockey team played their first match for Cowbridge in an eight-a-side game against Bro Morgannwg.

Team one were leading 1-0 at half-time with a goal from captain Evie Williams. In the second half, three more goals were scored, with two from Evie, achieving her first hat-trick, and there was one goal from Lily Morris, making the final score 4-0.

In their second game, Cowbridge won again, 2-0, with goals for Ellie Eddy-Williams and Megan McNamee. Player of the match was Ellie Eddy-Williams.

Team two had a shaky start with Bro Morgannwg scoring first. Cowbridge scored through Rosa Hartman. Bro Morgannwg came back with another goal and Hannah Lister-Simms ensured it was 2-2 at half-time.

In the second half, Hannah Lister-Simms and Rosa Hartman scored, making it two goals each for them, and a mistake by Bro Morgannwg's defence, scoring an own goal, made the score 5-2.

In their second match, Rosa Hartman scored to ensure another win for Cowbridge with the final score 1-0.

Player of the match was Rosa Hartman. A great start to the year-7 hockey team. Let's hope their winning ways continue.

Cross-country

Cowbridge School held its annual inter-house cross country championships on the last day of the half term for years 7 and 8. Middle School did not compete this year due to the building work.

In true cross-country style, the weather turned very wet for the runners, which made the conditions tough for the youngsters.

In the year-8 boys race, Josh Thomas was a clear winner in 5.03 minutes from Callum Jones and Tom Owen. In the team competition, the blue house (Thaw) came first with 46 points.

In the year-8 girls race, Annabel Curle, who had won the title of South Wales Cross Country Champion the day before, had a runaway victory in 5.35 minutes, winning by more than 40 seconds from Joanna Wilkins and Niamh Gallagher. The green (Dunraven) house came first with 43 points.

In the year-7 boys race, Kristian Jones won the race in 5.55 minutes from Ellis Rosser and Huw Bennett. The green (Dunraven) house won by 1 point from the red (Tusker) house with 59 points.

In the year-7 girls race, Eleanor Bishop won in 5.54 from Alice Tudor and Rebecca Thomas. The yellow (Nash) house won with 34 points.

Forget *'if only'*… The All Blacks have taught Wales a vital psychological lesson

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

IF ONLY…Wales' replacement scrum half Martin Roberts had not been illegally felled by Dan Carter's high tackle, with the exposed All Blacks' line tantalisingly close….

IF ONLY lock Alun Wyn-Jones' scrambled pass after his 70-yard burst in the dying moments of the match had gone to a Welsh hand…

IF ONLY…!

As the passion and heat of a pulsating, if less than classic clash between two proud rugby camps finally cools, all the post-match ifs and buts cannot disguise the stark reality of 21 successive Welsh defeats to their New Zealand nemesis over 56 barren years.

In the cold light of day, Saturday's latest encounter at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff appeared to have followed the by now well-worn script.

As on so many occasions in the past, a spirited Welsh team had mounted a determined first half challenge, spurred on by a fervent capacity crowd – only to be contained and then clinically dispatched by more ruthless, streetwise opponents, and an unyielding aggressive defence – the end result being yet another in a long line of 'heroic defeats'.

Except that, though partly true, this time it wasn't quite like that, for there was no second half Kiwi points blitz, of the kind seen as recently as last year in Cardiff.

In fact, at the final whistle, only seven points separated the two teams: The scoreboard read Wales 12, New Zealand 19 (with Carter's boot accounting for 14 points) and the All Blacks managing only one converted try by Andrew Hore, against four penalties by home outside half Stephen Jones.

Indeed, Wales might even have scrambled an unlikely win at the death, when Wyn-Jones broke away on his solo dash for fame – only halted by a desperate last-ditch tackle just yards short of the try line.

Ironically, the Welsh camp may have taken more, psychologically, from this result than the victors who, though competent and typically efficient, were certainly not the near-invincible All Black force of old, and for once were the more relieved of the two to hear the final whistle.

One can only wonder what might have been the final result *if only,* as Wales head coach Kiwi Warren Gatland had forecast, New Zealand had been without the totally commanding presence of man-of-the-match Dan Carter, for ultimately his slide-rule kicking was the difference between the two teams.

That said, it is mightily encouraging that Wales are now able to physically compete on level terms with rugby's giants for 80 minutes, as was again shown on Saturday.

Even more significantly, Welsh players who all too often in the past appeared defeated before they took the field, never confident of actually *beating* the mighty All Blacks, are slowly changing this ingrained defeatist mindset under the steely influence of proven hardcore winners, Gatland and Shaun Edwards.

It was evident from the disappointed players' post-match reactions that genuine inner belief is steadily growing and that they knew it had been a rare opportunity missed.

Provided they can iron out lapses in concentration as the game unfolds, play the referee's whistle (in the streetwise manner of the All Blacks) and keep control when the pressure tells, the day surely cannot be too far distant when new-found mental hardness translates into tangible and consistent success against the 'big boys' on the world stage.

In this context, the Welsh camp may yet come to view the lessons of Saturday's defeat to New Zealand as a formative milestone on the road to Wales re-joining that elite group at last.

They can take another important step in the right direction against the bone-jarring Samoans tomorrow evening – in a Millennium stadium clash that, on all too painful past experience, will be no place for the faint-hearted!

Not surprisingly, canny Gatland has taken few risks with his selection.

WALES TEAM*: James Hook, Leigh Halfpenny, Tom Shanklin, Jamie Roberts, Tom James, Dan Biggar, Dwayne Peel; Gethin Jenkins, Huw Bennett, Paul James, Luke Charteris, Alun-Wyn Jones, Andy Powell, Sam Warburton, Ryan Jones (capt).*

Replacements: Matthew Rees, Craig Mitchell, Bradley Davies, Jonathan Thomas, Martin Roberts, Jonathan Davies, Morgan Stoddart.

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